

# Libraries

(A Continuation of Public Libraries)

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## Presidential Address at Washington Conference

Linda A. Eastman, librarian, Public library, Cleveland, Ohio

Consider the state of libraries in Europe at the time of the first settlements in America. Suppose there had been little or no development in library methods and administration in the centuries which have followed. What would be the condition of America today? Some libraries would undoubtedly have grown up here, but their sixteenth or seventeenth century methods of organization would minimize their value even to the privileged few having access to them; public libraries, school libraries, and most of the specialized libraries, as we know them, would be nonexistent, and the public at large would still be without library service.

The supposition brings the instant realization that the America which would now exist under those conditions would be very different indeed from our America as it is, and that progressive library methods and organized book service have been really potent factors in the rapid development of this western continent. There come to mind the many Americans of note who have been assuredly influenced, in their education and in their life accomplishment, by their reading in libraries.<sup>1</sup>

Has not each one of us also encountered signal instances of lives which

have been given definite direction or impulse thru their use of libraries? And how about ourselves? What and where would we be today, in our individual development, had we been without the book contacts which libraries have brought us? Is it not certain that our mental horizons would be greatly circumscribed, our interests and our opportunities for following them fewer, all of our life plans vastly different, had we been deprived of libraries and library books?

Let us look to that ideal future, when library service has become all that it should be. What are some of the things we shall see? Every town and village with its library, adequate to its needs, as supplemented by its county library or its state library. Every city with a complete library system reaching all of its citizens. All rural districts, even the most remote, served by library station, book-car or book post, and generously supplied with books from the township or county library, which, in turn can look to its state library to supplement its resources. Every school, college, and university with a live working library as its palpitating heart. Reference libraries in all museums and research institutions; in other institutions, institutional libraries or library stations adapted to their particular

<sup>1</sup>Here the president named 32 distinctly eminent Americans.

purposes and needs. Special libraries of other kinds, many more than at present, serving commerce, industry and government.

Now think of all of those libraries, sufficient in number and so distributed as to bring books within reach of every inhabitant of our two countries, and think of them as each an ideal library of its kind. They will be housed in rooms and buildings which are adapted to their uses, attractive, comfortable and in good taste, and with an atmosphere of inviting hospitality. Each library will have a supply of books sufficient for meeting the active current demands, while county, state and national libraries will furnish a supplementary supply of less used books, and interloan systems will be so perfected that special books needed for a serious purpose by any individual can be procured from some library for him without undue delay. What will it not mean to reach a point where the fine art of substitution need no longer be overdone, but readers may know that it will be possible to get thru their library, and within a reasonable time, any really worth-while book they may want. Enthusiastic appreciation of libraries will be much more general when that day comes.

These ideal libraries presuppose ideal librarians and library staffs, experts adapted to their particular jobs and prepared for them by education and special training—children's librarians, school librarians, special librarians and general librarians, catalogers, bibliographers, readers' advisors, reference librarians and all the rest—more scholarly, probably, than most of us now are, and adding to a broader knowledge of books and of library technique, a mastery of practical psychology and a genuinely human and responsive interest in other people's problem.

What will be accomplished by these ideal libraries and librarians? Contemplate the result of a few generations in

which every individual, from early childhood on thruout his life, has had available the delights and benefits of good books, with expert service to fit them to his needs—the right book at the right time. Can we doubt that even many of the less intelligent would profit by such intimate life-time associations? That the gate of opportunity would open for many of the under-privileged? That research and true scholarship would be greatly aided to the end of solving many problems for the whole world's betterment?

We have been thinking of the full development of library service for the United States and Canada; but if this association is to justify its name of the American Library Association, should we not include also the neighbor across our southwestern border, and consider our entire continent? Since the visit of our library friends from Mexico last year, a number of prominent Mexican librarians have joined our association. I hope many of you may have had the privilege of hearing, during his recent visit to this country, Dr Moisés Saenz, sub-secretary of the department of education and "the dominant figure in the Mexican educational movement." I am sure no librarian could fail to be deeply moved by his statement, in explaining how exploitation of the masses has long been an underlying cause of Mexican difficulties, that "land and books" was his battle-cry. "Land and liberty," he said, had been fought for valiantly by our forefathers, but liberty he was sure would follow as soon as education can prepare the way for it, so "land and books" expresses the *summum bonum* for which he is striving for his people—"land and books." Speed the day when Mexico has the books it needs! Let us give our Mexican fellow workers a warm welcome to our midst.

Perhaps we should not even confine our little prognostication of a desirable future to this North American continent. Thruout the world, the interest in libra-

ries—the realization of the need of them—is quickening. In the last decade several European countries have made remarkable progress in giving free book service. The American Library in Paris and the Paris library school have served their purpose with notable results. Our Fiftieth Anniversary conference initiated a movement toward a world fellowship of librarians that has already led to the calling of the World Library and Bibliographical Congress to be held in Rome next month, which will be attended and participated in by a number of those here present. What is to be the outcome of that international gathering, and of its possible successors? Time will tell, but the keen interest of the library leaders of many countries indicates that the results of their assembling and discussing both common and divergent problems, may be far from negligible as eventually affecting this whole world's future.

Whether we may wish it to be so or not, American librarians must also face the fact that even here at home, the every-day functioning of the progressive libraries is bearing fruit in an ever-enlarging circle of readers who are attempting to form intelligent opinions on social, governmental, national and international questions and relations, to an extent which indicates the inescapable implication of libraries in general world affairs, and which emphasizes our obligation to make certain that these libraries contain the latest and most reliable information on all questions of real consequence.

Am I magnifying the importance of libraries and their potential influence on local material and world progress? Is it possible to magnify them unduly? If libraries are the repositories of the knowledge and the wisdom of the world, and if they can become still more active agencies in the diffusion of this knowledge and wisdom, can their importance be over-estimated or over-emphasized?

Today the A. L. A. is an association of 11,000 men and women who are attempting to pool their professional information and experience and to utilize it for the common good. The membership is represented in 60 boards and committees, and its services require a staff of over 50 employees at Headquarters.

Many of its major undertakings in the past few years have been made possible by grants from the Carnegie Corporation and gifts from other sources for specific purposes. Some of these projects have been completed or are approaching completion, and are standing the test of practical usefulness. Notwithstanding some strident criticism of the Survey and the text books, would any of us be willing now to do without them? I have yet to learn of any library staff which submitted careful answers to the grilling questions of the Survey, which did not profit by the self-analysis required, and which does not now constantly consult the Survey volumes for the information it gives on other libraries; and while no one has claimed perfection for the text books, they will be considered indispensable tools of the library schools and of most libraries until such time as their use may possibly result in producing better ones.

The grants made for the other special activities have been for stated amounts or periods, for investigation, experimental and demonstration work. The experimental periods are drawing to a close and these funds are being rapidly exhausted. We are now faced sharply with the necessity of stringently curtailing some of these special activities, or of finding the means for their continuance.

One of their results has been to bring pressure for similar attention to other phases of library work which need promotional and advisory aid. The secretary, in his annual report, mentions several projects, a few out of many, which should be undertaken and developed, each of which would benefit our library

cause in some fundamental way—but every single one of all those is dependent on more funds.

An objective of the immediate future seems clearly to be the securing of more funds for the A. L. A. That bug-a-boo of finance! We meet it at every turn, in the administration of our own libraries as well as in that of our association. We cannot brush it aside with the dec-

laration that it is not our responsibility, for it is to a certain extent at least, the very real responsibility of each and every one of us. And why should it not be? Librarians can hardly expect exemption from the problems both of financing and of proper use of funds, which are common to workers in nearly all fields of human endeavor. Why not face these problems bravely?

### Adult Erudition<sup>1</sup>

E. F. Stevens, librarian, Pratt Institute free library, Brooklyn, N. Y.

There is something in the sound of this term not inappropriate to the mission of the Institute as the President has set it forth. It will bring to mind also a movement which is much heralded at the moment, to which our national association is fully committed, and into which all of us have been irresistibly drawn. The title of this movement, also, is an uncertain term, but this conference of the American Library Association is destined to make clear to us all that Adult Education as a new line of action is the ultimate purpose of librarianship. Upon that theme in its latest manifestation, I am incompetent to express judgment. My incompetency is made complete by my membership for more than two years with a permanent commission for adult education in my home city, involving many luncheons, the inevitable "survey" and inescapable questionnaire, sub-committee activities and inactivities, attendance upon joint-conferences with affiliated bodies, the grant of an appropriation, and the consummation of a "report." I have been listening eagerly and repeatedly with open mind to the distinguished Oxford professor who has been visiting these shores to champion Adult Education, and reading with some fidelity the quarterly of the A. L. A. de-

signed to keep librarians informed as to their unsuspected professional opportunities. Yet, tho my quarter century of library service with the public has given me sufficient evidence that grown people have much to learn, I am yet to be convinced that a new and untried line of endeavor has been opened before us, and that librarianship of tomorrow must be otherwise directed than the librarianship of today.

Even the *Journal of Adult Education*, the first number of which lies before me as I write, has failed to bring me to believe that the cause it so impressively advocates is unique or original, as far as it relates to my work. I have twice read over with mental application the symposium of librarians entitled "Is adult education a fad?"

Therein, a librarian whose contribution to the profession, by precept, example, distinguished service, conspicuous leadership, original enterprise and brilliant achievement deserves the acclaim of his fellows, is pilloried before them; and half-a-dozen librarians, chosen in terms of the populations of the cities they serve, are told off to make light of his opinions. Thus to prove that adult education is not a fad! I repeat, that twice I studied those letters which the *Journal* had solicited, and I found myself strangely suspecting that the critics were

<sup>1</sup> Read at meeting of American Library Institute, Washington, D. C., May 13, 1929.

not sure of themselves in the position they were expected to maintain, and that the letters had been written in the spirit of accommodation. In vulgar parlance, it appeared to me that these eminent gentlemen were "talking thru their hats."

Mr Dana regrets the tendency to "worship" the phrase "adult education," to ascribe to it miraculous powers thru new ordering of library processes. Before the firing squad of unconvinced critics delivering a broadside of blank cartridges, Mr Dana stands unscathed. When the smoke of this harmless volley is lifted, one perceives no intent to do Mr Dana injury. The composite blast resolves itself into an admission that adult education thru the library is no new thing, and that any idea or effort to encourage wider reading on the part of the public at large is worth promoting; which, I venture to say, is not far from Mr Dana's own way of thinking, after all. That symposium in its evident lack of positive conviction left me more shaken than ever.

Indeed, adult education thru the libraries, has been their inherent, unheralded prerogative. The free libraries for more than half a century have been existing to this very end. Nor are the recent elevation of "readers' advisers" new, original or more effective than hitherto.

A quarter century ago upon my first acquaintance with the Pratt Institute free library, when trained workers were yet few, the information desk was installed in a conspicuous place in our circulating department, and thereat were established readers' advisers, two in succession. Both were women of extraordinary gifts and attainments to whom the people craving adult education should appeal for that guidance which the advisers were eager and competent to give. These talented ladies in turn were sedulously avoided by the public. I remember particularly one of them suffering keenly from avoidance and neglect. The other,

still more gifted, in attempting to overcome neglect by *insistence*, caused people to shun the library. It happened at one time that the head of the department took occasion to welcome a youth who had been missed for his accustomed visits, and upon inquiring as to what had kept him away received this amazing reply—"When we boys come here to get books that old lady tries to tell us what we want to read, and we won't stand for it."

These commendable efforts to advise the readers failed utterly, in the first instance because the advisers were *not librarians* but *super-intellects* unable to comprehend the science and art of bringing books and people together which is librarianship in its simplest terms.

Readers' courses, to be sure, are as old as the reading of books serially. Not *subsidized* courses — those are new. Courses of reading carefully worked out to form a sequence to be followed in detail, appropriate to educating the adult were operating when I took hold at Pratt. Careful consideration of the actual working and effectiveness of these courses, finely conceived and promoted as they were, showed that few of those who subscribed to them pursued them consistently, and the duplication of books to equip those courses have burdened our shelves with excess material which two decades have not wholly cleared away.

Reading lists for the development of subjects of study, improvement or edification are indispensable to librarianship, but just as under my observation, experts as "readers' advisers" demonstrated their failure to appreciate the people's needs, so specialists are not those who should recommend books upon specialties for the general reader. "*Beware the expert*" is a business maxim. The expert is not unprejudiced in the nature of the case. Mr Anderson in his contribution to the symposium in the *Journal of Adult Education*, aforesaid, describes

the specialist as "one who knows more and more about less and less." No more emphatic demonstration of the incompetence of specialists to direct reading in their specialties could be imagined than the collapse of the attempt of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education in 1904 and 1906 to provide a list which should guide libraries in the purchase of technical books which the Societies felt would be beyond the capacity of librarians who were not engineers. That list which was sent out to be the last word in technical authority was utterly demolished by the venturesome editor of the annual list of *Technical Books* published by the Pratt Institute free library. He was only a librarian exercising his rightful prerogative as a bibliographer, one whose business it is to make lists in literature of every kind. The list of the Engineering Society, prepared by experts, died unwept at the age of two in 1906. The *Pratt Technical List* prepared by a librarian is in its twenty-second year, and is sought around the world.

The *Reading with a Purpose* program is a commendable effort on the part of Headquarters with abundance of means, and seeking outlets for expenditure. It seems a new Literary Guild to absolve librarians of independent book-choosing. They are the lists of experts, and suffer the weakness incident to knowledge of a subject without knowledge of the needs of those who are invited to approach the subject. The preparation of these lists for libraries by those who are not themselves librarians has been a severe blow to our professional pride, and the implied lack of confidence on the part of our own organization in its membership to do the work which is theirs to do, will take years to live down. They who employ librarians have taken us at our own valuation.

To enlarge the library's usefulness, to enable those desirous of pursuing education after schooling to go on with learn-

ing, to direct and guide seekers after knowledge, to give opportunity to read and study to the bookless—all this and much more is elemental librarianship. That many who have entered upon the life school of experience crave culture, erudition and continuous progressive study and improvement has not been evidenced in my own observation in a quarter century's close touch with the public—not enough surely to warrant a recasting of our work in terms of the few. We are told of a man in a neighboring university who is accumulating one academic degree after another till as a septuagenarian he is exhausting the university's catalog of awards. At St. Johns College in Cambridge, England, a man was pointed out to me who had spent 70 years as a scholar in the precincts of the college. But happily these *erudite parasites* are only curiosities. Life to the great mass of people is the effort of living. To help make this living happy, profitable, intelligent, diverting and successful is the manifest mission of the free library.

To this end the first necessity in promoting intelligent living thru so-called education is to *educate the educators*.

The very preparation of reading lists outside of libraries, and the appointment of "readers' advisers" inside of libraries, is confession that the members of the library staff are insufficient for their work. It is our expectation at Pratt that every member of the staff shall in effect be a readers' adviser. Every member must be professionally trained and professionally minded, not less in the lending department than in the reference rooms, emphatically at the charging desk at the point of immediate contact with the crowd. With us the assistant who, in her turn, stamps borrowers' cards is not a conscious subordinate. She is a potential head librarian, schooled to the work, gaining first experience at the critical point where the library is interpreted to the people.

So the vital thing in adult education thru the library is the *educated teaching staff*, every member of it, precisely as with education thru every other agency. Thus our home Library school is addressed to the adult education of those whose duty shall be to carry on this education at every point. And yet in its passion to glorify this old project under a new name, in a new manner, the American Library Association has made difficult the education of its own adults, hindering the instruments of education, in gaining that education which those instruments are expected to impart. The doctrine of training classes for subordinates who must always be subordinate, and library schools for superiors who must ever be superior, will make adult education thru the libraries, hopefully carried on these many years by educated adults, to be an anomaly and self contradictory.

The new program of adult education thru the library will impose greater cost upon library administration. It means, in effect, creating a new department, involving at least one additional maximum salary, to perform a work which belongs to all. If I should be granted an appropriation for engaging a readers' adviser for my library, I should distribute the allowance among my existing staff that all may know that more and not less is expected of them. I should fortify at all points, rather than at one point, and thus strengthen the whole. It will not avail to employ more people to do the same work.

In the current number of the *World's Work* an investigation on the part of the Yale chapter of the American Association of University Professors has reported this conclusion—"The precedent of increasing the number of teachers as rapidly as new funds become available prevents any considerable increase in the average salary. This is not only the chief cause of low salaries, but also of deterioration in the quality of the teach-

ing profession." My contention is that instituting in libraries a department of public advice takes from all the other departments their most honorable function, and that free libraries unless already fully endowed with perfection of equipment, resources and staff such that they seek new worlds to conquer, must be cautious in embarking upon a venture dissipating rather than intensifying their powers.

And, finally, my recommendation to the profession is that less urgency be given to new departures, than to the great essentials of our work still far from realization. The danger of present tendencies of expansion and distraction is that the original conception will suffer. It does now suffer. To quote Woodrow Wilson—"The side-shows have swallowed up the circus."

To point my moral let me urge upon the A. L. A. Publishing Board that they *publish*,—less of lists, leaflets, pamphlets, reports, school texts, and advice; *instead, books for libraries*. We who are in the trenches need ammunition, not notes. Let the Committee on book production, of which I am a useless tho willing member, *produce books*. I recommend that the A. L. A. address its ample funds to the publishing of those non-copyright classics and standards indispensable to all libraries, books which the publishing trade is abandoning or degrading into cheap reprints or "pocket" or "handy" editions. The A. L. A. editions should be models of bookmaking in respect to paper, print, type, and binding, conforming to the requirements of libraries in these respects so often discussed at these conferences. The financial return on this investment would at least not be less than in the ventures with which the Publishing Board is now involved. I venture to say it would pay far better.

The benefit bestowed would be direct, strictly and professionally true and consistent, satisfying a need. We should

not then be restricting our ambitions to "fewer and better readers" as one contributor to the Adult Education symposium proclaims, but we should be reviving that pledge which once adorned

the official letter head of the A. L. A. but which has dwindled, diminished, and disappeared—

*"The Best Reading for the Greatest Number at the Least Cost."*

## Letters—Information and Discussion

### One Nomination for Each Office<sup>1</sup>

Dear Madam:

While I have no desire to enter into a discussion of this matter, I should just like to ask four questions of those who are concerned about it:

Do you know of any other professional association that expects its official nominating committee to present two or more names for offices to be filled? (N. E. A.; American Historical Association, American Bar or Medical—or any other association composed of persons above high school age)

Is the membership of these organizations any less scattered than that of the A. L. A., or only more adult? Are the interests of these organizations, and the cause of democracy, seriously jeopardized by their methods of selecting their officers?

What basis for choice has the membership at large between two or more candidates, other than personal acquaintance, color of hair, age, sex, or previous condition of servitude? Do the candidates represent different policies or platforms, or have they different degrees of ability, or what?

Only one nominating committee ever named more than one candidate for President. If multi-nominations are such a good and urgently desired thing, why was the most important office of all promptly, pointedly, tacitly, repeatedly and unanimously omitted therefrom after one trial? Is it not because everybody realizes that the presidency is too

honorable and dignified an office to be subjected to the silly horseplay of an "election" in which personalities are the only possible issue?

Very truly yours,

C. B. RODEN

### A. L. A. Elections

Editor of LIBRARIES:

I have been very much interested in the communications in your May issue with regard to the nominations and elections for officers of the A. L. A. I have for a quarter of a century or more been opposed to the method of making a nomination or nominations thru a committee and have always expressed my opinion when asked to do so. I find, however, that usually I am in a very small minority.

The experience of the A. L. A. shows that whatever is done through such a committee is always unpopular. If several nominations for the same office are allowed, it is difficult or impossible to make them because members are not willing to accept a nomination with the possibility of a defeat and there is no logic in a disputed election unless there is some issue to dispute about. On the other hand, if only one nomination is made for each office, members will feel about it precisely as your correspondents are doing, despite the fact that the committee's nomination is theoretically merely a suggestion and any group is at liberty to put up another ticket.

The right way to handle this matter is not thru a nominating committee but thru a primary election, in which any

<sup>1</sup> The substance of Mr Roden's reply to the letter of Miss Hawkins of Vassar College (See LIBRARIES 34:200)

member is at liberty to vote for any one he chooses for any office. The voting in the election itself should be limited to those who receive more than a specified number of votes in the primary, or if no one receives such a number, then to a certain number of names, say three, who receive the highest number of votes. In this way an actual expression of the will of the membership can be obtained.

I have seen this method employed with great success by a considerable number of organizations.

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK  
Librarian

St. Louis public library  
May 8, 1929

#### Not to Be Published

On account of insufficient subscriptions, the *Proceedings* of the conference of librarians of large public libraries, held at Chicago, December 28, 1928, will not be printed. To those libraries which placed subscriptions, a mimeographed copy of the *Proceedings* supplied by the official stenographer of the conference will be mailed for the loan of one week with instructions to send it to the next library on the accompanying list. The paper by Professor Simeon E. Leland on "Bond issues for public library building construction" and the paper on "Some problems in securing public library buildings" by Joseph L. Wheeler, will appear in one of the journals of the library profession.

CLARENCE E. SHERMAN  
Chairman of Conference committee  
Providence, R. I.

#### An Opportunity for Study

Notices have been sent out of the Brazil summer school, Rio de Janeiro, June 29-August 27, 1929. This school is to be under the supervision of the Brazil Research Institute, a subsidiary institution of the well-known learned society founded in 1838. Leading scholars will

give the lectures, all in English with the exception of one which will be in French. The morning will be devoted to lectures, and the afternoon to sightseeing trips and visits. Excursions to nearby towns have been arranged for Saturdays and Sundays. Several special side trips which may be taken by visitors are noted.

The cost is about \$395. Further information about the summer session and tour may be obtained from Institute of International Education, 2 West Forty-fifth Street, New York City.

#### A Memorial to Eliza Gordon Browning

The staff of the Indianapolis public library is creating a memorial fund in honor of the late Eliza G. Browning who served the Indianapolis library with great faithfulness for so many years. It is hoped to erect a book fund from the income of which will be purchased, in turn, books for circulation in the various departments and branches of the library system. Each book will be plated with a specially designed book plate.

The staff is giving the opportunity to anyone who wishes to share in making this memorial worthy of the service and friendship of Miss Browning, not only for the city of Indianapolis, but for the library world in general.

A permanent record will be kept of all contributors to the fund so that the love and esteem with which Miss Browning was regarded by her contemporaries will not be forgotten.

#### I Meant to Do My Work Today

Richard LeGallienne

I meant to do my work today  
But a brown bird sang in the apple tree,  
And a butterfly flitted across the field,  
And all the leaves were calling me.

And the wind went sighing over the land,  
Tossing the grasses to and fro,  
And a rainbow held out its shining hand—  
So what could I do but laugh and go?

From *Verse of Our Day*.

Monthly—Except August  
and September

# Libraries

Mary Eileen Ahern, Editor

216 W. Monroe Street  
Chicago, Illinois

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|                                 |            |                                  |               |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
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By the rules of the banks of Chicago, an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or postoffice money-orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at market prices.

Contributions for current numbers of **LIBRARIES** should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

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## Library Taxes in Illinois

A COPY of the recent bill relating to the library laws in Illinois and containing the changes made in it by the present assembly has been received from the Legislative Reference bureau, Springfield.

The substance of the principal changes made in the law are as follows:

The library tax shall be, in addition to all other taxes levied, and shall not be subject to reduction nor be a part of the taxes making up the aggregate which determines the rate of reduction, nor part of the taxes making up the rate described as the limit of reduction.

The new section gives corporation authorities of towns, villages and townships, power to levy tax in the same manner. It provides that the library boards of free libraries may contract

with any lawful association or any municipal library board in the state of Illinois for library service and that the library boards may join with boards of any one or more than one library in any town, village or township for the maintenance of a common library for such towns, villages or townships upon such terms as may be agreed upon by and between the said boards.

Amendments to the original bill reduced the tax levy called for from one and one-half mill to one and two-tenths mill.

The new law will be gratefully received by the libraries affected, but all libraries in Illinois will unite in the satisfaction of their continued confidence in the present state administration as being peculiarly library-minded.

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## A. L. A. Meeting for 1929

ONE who was privileged to attend the two A. L. A. meetings in Washington City, 1914 and 1929, will be able to strike averages if he will, that will add

materially to his store of memories of the two meetings.

It was very hot weather in the week of May 25-29, 1914, it was quite cool,

not to say cold, most of the week of May 13-18, 1929. The only approach to anything like hot weather came in the hour of waiting for the picture on the White House grounds, and how it did rain and cool off afterwards!

One hotel, principally, and one meeting-hall held the visitors from out of the city in 1914. In 1929, ten hotels, principally, held most of the visitors, and meeting places were scattered farther apart than are the White House and the Capitol, with many simultaneous meetings.

In 1914, the large number of men and women long holding power and place in the educational world, including the library field, gave color to the exercises and meetings. In 1924, an entirely new group of representatives were holding the reins and only one leading string was visible. The enthusiasm of the first timers was a refreshing element in every assembly and one saw nothing of the *ennui* of the master minds of the 1914 meeting which might, of course, be due in both cases to the weather supply on the different occasions.

The size of the attendance made new records at both meetings, 1300 being the high-water mark in 1914 and twice that number in 1929, marking the highest point of attendance yet attained.

The Saturday morning session was a most enjoyable one and the messages from "the outside" library influences were full of inspiration and cheer to those who heard them.

The "commercial circle" may be said to have made "a grand entrance" in the

good graces of the A. L. A. circle and this marks one of the good results of international association by librarians. Without doubt, a decided effect was produced when a session of The Library Association was devoted to a personal survey of the exhibits at one of its recent meetings, led by its retiring president, himself an eminent librarian. "The party" at Washington would indicate the breaking up of the last bit of the line of distinction, socially at least.

A city meeting became more than ever a burden, something with a hope for its discontinuance, but if any city can overcome its inadaptability, Washington can and it did in May!

No attempt has been made to give a full report of the proceedings of the various A. L. A. meetings in Washington in this, the next number of *LIBRARIES* after the conference. There are several reasons for this which can be discovered if anyone is interested in finding them.

The regular *Proceedings* will doubtless contain full reports, now that the omission of the attendance registration cuts down the cost of that historic document to a possible expenditure, and members not privileged to have been present at the meetings will receive the next best thing to having been there and knowing who else was there, an opportunity to read about all of it.

Much effort has been given to gathering what will appear in these pages for the next several issues, relating to the meetings, and presentations of the occasions will be made as colorful as possible.

### A Step Forward in Rag Paper Production

THE cost of rag paper for newspapers and pamphlets which has seemed excessive to a prohibitive degree for many years, has been a matter of concern not only to custodians of printed material especially in the form of newspapers, pamphlets, reports, etc.

It is, therefore, a matter of great satisfaction to know that the *Chicago Tribune* has been making an investigation with the thought of reducing its cost, if possible, to the point where the use of rag paper for printing special editions would be less burdensome, though it has seemed and still seems impossible to produce a paper that will stand the wear and tear of time at a price that will not absorb more than the cost of production can stand, particularly, in view of the fact that there is not a sufficient number of purchasers to make any material contribution to the cost.

In answer to the request that LIBRARIES should intercede, if possible, with its nearest neighbor of the two great newspapers which had adopted the plan of producing special editions of their publication on rag paper, a letter was sent to the *Chicago Tribune* setting forth the situation from the standpoint of the libraries.

A reply to the request was somewhat deferred because an investigation re-

garding cost, etc., was underway. A recent letter from the business manager of the *Tribune* relating to the matter, is as follows:

Our present price of \$100 a year for the daily and \$100 a year for the Sunday editions does not cover the cost of manufacture. However, it is entirely possible that such a price is nevertheless prohibitive and we have decided as an experiment to reduce this price to \$100 a year for both the daily and Sunday *Tribune* with the hope that increased sales will eventually enable us to break even at least. We are also contemplating selling the Sunday edition only, at \$50 a year and will work out a price for bound volumes of both the daily and Sunday.

I will appreciate receiving any suggestions or comments on the matter.

E. M. ANTRIM

Assistant business manager

This is a very encouraging statement and it gives hope to those who have had a special interest in the matter, of better things to come in the efforts of preserving for the future a definite, authentic record of the doings of today.

The *Chicago Tribune* deserves the gratitude not only of the general public, but of the libraries which have been carrying the unsolved problem for many years as one of the dire things that threaten destruction to their valuable work in the matter of collecting and preserving documentary evidence belonging to the era in which they worked.

### The New President of A. L. A.

THE story of the new president, Dr Andrew Keogh, librarian of Yale University, is the story of one who has thoroughly learned the lesson set forth by Longfellow when he advised folks to

"Learn to labor and to wait," and illustrates to an unusual degree the expression "diligent in business."

Dr Keogh came to America from England, 30 years ago, and shortly after-

wards entered library service at Yale, rising progressively from librarian of the Linonian Brothers library on the Yale campus to the head of what bids fair to rank as the leading university library in America. (See LIBRARIES, 31:131)

Dr Keogh, being somewhat retiring in his disposition, does not have a wide acquaintance among American librarians outside the ranks of those interested in the higher forms of library service and in the book arts. But where he has made

friends, he retains their esteem for his many admirable personal qualities and always with great admiration for his erudition. His administration of A. L. A. affairs promises an interesting exhibition, the scholar leading a heterogeneous assemblage not quite sure of its goal. However, the personnel of the executive board backed by the executive secretary, with a California locality to stage the exhibit promises unusual consideration for those interested.

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### The International Library Meeting in Rome

AT THE end of June, the minds and hearts of all true librarians will be turned toward that fortunate part of the craft which will have enjoyed the experience, profit and pleasure of being present at the memorable conference to be held in "the Eternal City on its seven hills." In this, there will be no tinge of envy of the better fortune that visited the distinguished colleagues privileged to be at the Italian meetings, but a hopeful expectancy that all, the whole library world, will enjoy a wider vision of the good fortune of being a librarian, because of the interchange of ideas and ideals, because of the new sources of inspiration opened up and for the inevitable better acquaintance that will result from the intermingling of common interests in the world of books.

LIBRARIES joins heartily in the universal wish of those who are really interested, that the library congress in Rome will be an occasion that shall mark a red letter day in the history of library development thruout the world.

It is expected that this and future series of congresses will serve as a means for international exchange of ideas on library and bibliographical matters. The present international interest in organized library and bibliographic service is largely due to library conferences held in the past.

An international exhibit will be presented at Rome, illustrating the form and degree of development in bibliography, and the library methods current in various countries. All this will be both valuable and interesting.

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### A New Library Force

WHAT promises to be an interesting development in library extension has recently received a valuable impetus toward the fulfillment of plans which

some of the library authorities in the South have had in mind to accomplish. This has come about by an offer from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, Chicago, to

extend to library service in various parts of the South such financial assistance as will make plain the situation and the local ability to meet successfully the library needs as they are presented in the various communities.

The Rosenwald proposal has several points in it which bear on the importance of the efforts to meet conditions: First, the requirement of the donors that the designated libraries in the South will "serve the entire population, rural and urban, colored and white, in the localities selected for the purpose of making the demonstration;" the requirement that the local authorities will be expected to provide adequate buildings and equipment to meet the conditions; that the contributions shall be used exclusively for books and for services. This latter is most important.

Twenty-five years ago *Public Libraries* advocated continuously, that the traveling librarian should be an important part of the traveling library movement. Years of experience have demonstrated the truth of that position and it may be concluded that this new decision relating to books and service marks the beginning of an important era in the history of library development.

Chicago has long been proud of the public spirit shown under the Rosenwald name and this new exposition adds lustre to the list.

*The Weekly List* of selected United States Government publications, issued by the United States government printing office, offers a very valuable list of material for reference work at a ridiculously low price considering the authority and value of the material named for every kind of a library. A library, however large or self-esteeming, lacks a vital key to knowledge when *The Weekly List* is not on its shelves.

### Trust Fund Statement

The statement (given below) was prepared because of a resolution introduced at the trustees section of the A. L. A. at West Baden last June. Attention was called to the fact that there was a wide divergence in the ideas relating to trust funds and the methods of carrying them out thruout the country. The statement was prepared in a coöperative action of the Trustees section and the Committee on library revenue, the main points of it being as follows:

1) Certainty of the legal authority on the part of the library board or the city to hold and administer the trust funds under several plans.

2) Safety in investing funds. The rules governing savings banks investments were approved.

3) Diversified investments. Not over 5 or 10 per cent of funds should be given over to any one investment.

4) The question of tax exemption should be carefully examined and understood.

5) No investment should be made in securities where any member of the board is directly active in the management.

6) As far as possible, have one investment account and divide the income semi-annually according to the principal of each fund.

7) If possible, persuade benefactors of the library not to tie up the funds in such a way as to defeat their purpose.

8) Custodians of funds should be adequately covered with surety bonds.

9) An annual audit of the securities and funds of the board by the city comptroller or by a C. P. A.

10) Annual report should show securities held, income from each, with descriptions, etc.

According to the *Bookselling News*, there are 30,821 booksellers in the U. S. A.

The Des Moines public library is one of 35 libraries in the United States that circulates over one million books a year.—*Des Moines Book Marks*.

### Death's Toll

Frances S. Talcott, for 25 years librarian of Lewis Institute, Chicago, Illinois, died at her home, May 2.

Mrs A. G. S. Josephson, wife of the distinguished cataloger and, herself, well known in Chicago library circles, died at her home in Fairhope, Alabama, May 16.

John Trotwood Moore, for a number of years state librarian of Tennessee, died suddenly, May 10. Mr Moore was the author of many books and contributed much to magazine literature. He had a special interest and did much work in the history of the South, particularly on Andrew Jackson.

Frederick T. Procter, for many years a valuable supporter and a long time trustee of the Public library of Utica, New York, died in Los Angeles on April 26. Mr Procter "was among the eminent public benefactors of Utica and gave not only his time and consideration to public service, but accepted responsibilities for which the town will long hold him in grateful remembrance."

Mrs Florence G. Anders, for 25 years librarian at Iowa Falls, Iowa, died at her home in Des Moines on Sunday, May 5. Mrs Anders resigned her position at Iowa Falls in 1923 and has since lived in Des Moines with her daughter, Miss Mae Anders who is assistant librarian of the Des Moines public library.

The *Iowa Quarterly*, at the time of her death, said:

Her life energies have gone into making the library (Iowa Falls) a success and under her management it has grown from a few books in an old building to a large, well selected collection in a modern and attractive building.

Henry J. Carr, a distinguished member of the library profession and for 38 years librarian of Albright Memorial library, Scranton, Pennsylvania, died at his home in that city, May 21, after an illness of several months.

Mr Carr held the record of having attended more meetings of the A. L. A. than any of its members, last year being his forty-second meeting. He served the organization as treasurer from '86-93, as recorder from '94-95, as vice-president from '96-97, and as secretary from 1898-1900. He was the A. L. A. president, 1900-01. He also gave service on a number of important committees and counseled on matters relating to the welfare of the association on many occasions.

Mr Carr and Mr Carr's wife, herself a librarian when they were married in 1886, were prime favorites in the membership of the A. L. A. Mrs Carr's cordial reception of the new members in the library circles, her continued remembrance of those who had served for longer periods and her cordial greetings have always been outstanding characteristics. In all these, she was heartily seconded by Mr Carr as one was seldom seen or engaged in any good work without the other.

Mr Carr's services began in the Public library of Grand Rapids from whence he went to St Joseph, Missouri, after several years service. From St Joseph he went to Scranton in 1891 where he remained until his death.

Mr and Mrs Carr were recipients of the public acknowledgment of the esteem in which they were held by their colleagues on various occasions, notably when a silver loving cup was presented to them in the Saratoga meeting in 1924. Resolutions of sympathy and greeting passed at the first session of the A. L. A. were sent to them from the recent meeting in Washington when news of the illness of Mr Carr was received. Burial was at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Miss Sula Wagner, for nearly 39 years a member of the staff of the St. Louis public library and chief of its Catalog and Order department since 1894, died at St. Luke's hospital, St. Louis, on May 9

after an illness of about 8 months. Miss Wagner was born in Newville, Pa., in 1865 and went with her parents in childhood to Shelbyville, Illinois. Later she took a normal course and served as a teacher for several years. In 1884, she came in this capacity to St. Louis, and on June 6, 1890, she entered the service of the Public library as an assistant. In 1892 she became assistant-cataloger and in 1894, chief of the department. At the time of her death, she was the senior member of the staff.

Miss Wagner became a member of the American Library Association in 1893, and at the time of her death was a life member. She attended altogether 18 conferences, her first being that of 1896. She was active for many years in the work of the catalog section, serving as its secretary in 1903 and as chairman in 1915. In 1907-8, she was a member of the Committee on library administration and in 1910, she was elected a member of the council.

She was also an active member of the Missouri library association, joining at its second annual meeting in 1901, when she was elected second vice-president. In 1903, she became first vice-president and in 1906, president.

Miss Wagner made an extended trip abroad during the summer of 1928 and was taken ill at its end, entering St. Luke's hospital on her arrival in St. Louis and remaining there with the exception of two months early this year.

Funeral services were conducted on May 11 in St. Louis by Rev Dr George R. Dodson, pastor of the Church of the Unity, of which Miss Wagner was a member.

At its regular meeting on May 10, the Board of directors of the Public library unanimously adopted the following minute:

The library has suffered a serious loss in the death of Miss Sula Wagner, for nearly 39 years a valued member of its staff and since 1894 chief of its Catalog and

Order department. Miss Wagner's signal ability, good judgment and skill in administration have contributed in a noteworthy degree to the progress of the library and its service to the public. It will be difficult to replace her.

Miss Wagner had a large circle of friends, not only in her own library and in St. Louis but thruout the library profession. The minute quoted above does not overstate her great services to the library, and in addition she is mourned by the entire staff as a personal friend.

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK  
Librarian

St. Louis public library  
May 11, 1929

The newspaper report on the will of the late Hon. Cedric Chivers of Bath, England, shows that a large share of his estate was left in benefactions to friends and associates, and the residue was given to Bath. One-fourth of the gift is to be used for a city lending or reference library, the remaining three-fourths going to the Royal United Hospital, one of his special delights in the last years of his life.

The valuation of his estate will be more than 70,000£. He bequeathed shares in the Cedric Chivers, Ltd. of amounts varying from 50 to 100£ to 27 employees of the company. He desired that the trustees should retain, at their discretion, for a period not exceeding 21 years, his share in the Company, and that the persons employed in the business of the Company should be given ample opportunity of purchasing part or all of the shares and becoming proprietors of the business. Thus the distinguished firm of binders will be continued.

Mayor Chivers' beautiful new home and its wonderful and beautiful contents were sold at auction and the proceeds added to the sum of his benefactions. Various organizations bought in his pictures, certain groups of statuary, of books and historical *vertu* as tokens of respect for a much beloved citizen.

### A Notable Birthday

April 14, 1929, marked the ninetieth birthday of Charles Alexander Nelson of New York. The occasion was celebrated by many friends who knew of it and would certainly have been participated in by many more had they known of it.

Seventy friends within easy reach of his home in Mt Vernon, N. Y., were present to present personal greetings. Ten of his old staff at Columbia were present and nearly all the rest were heard from. There were more than 100 greeting cards and letters, and 13 telegrams were received.

Mr Nelson expresses his appreciation of the celebration prepared for him in verse which he sends thru LIBRARIES "to those who contributed, that they and others may know the spirit of an old pioneer towards his younger followers."

*To My Dear Girls  
on my  
Ninetieth Birthday*

There's nowhere a record, so far as I know,  
Of any be-powdered antique old beau,  
Who was able to make such a splendid  
show  
Of loyal girls as I can.

Their flowers and tulips that came in a  
box,  
Their warm-blooded two lips that came in  
frocks,  
I welcomed them all without any shocks,  
Not a bit fazed with this hale "old man."

In ninety-three at the Newberry,  
Foreseeing my years that were yet to be,  
A band of the fair and debonair  
Bade me fare well with an easy chair.

On the fiftieth year after I began  
The work that has filled my long life's  
span,  
They joined with the Club that crowned  
the year  
With a loving-cup and words of cheer.

At seventy years they be-jewelled me,  
When Columbia University  
Turned me out to pasture on the lea;  
From Freshies and Sophies well set free.

At seventy-five they were in the drive  
Of friends who in number made my years  
alive,  
And they showered above my old gray  
head  
Scores of roses blushing Harvard red.

Now they come like a flock of homing  
birds,  
With their beautiful gifts and loving words,  
Their joyous presence and wishes dear  
For many another blissful year.

All thanks, *dear girls*, for such you are  
To me, spite of Time and distance far.  
'Twill take more than lapse of years can do  
To sever the bonds betwixt me and you.

Charles Alexander Nelson

April 14, 1929.

Mr Nelson has devoted his life to books and has had a varied and interesting career. See *Who's Who in America*.

### The New State Law Digest

One of the most important matters in its far reaching and permanent results is the *State Law Index* being prepared by the Legislative reference service of the Library of Congress. An act of Congress approved February 10, 1927, authorized and directed the Librarian of Congress to prepare an index to the legislation of the 48 states for each biennium. The first of these indexes, covering the biennium 1925-6, in a preliminary edition were sent to the state libraries and law librarians interested so that there might be a full, critical study at the meeting held in Washington, May 14.

A preliminary edition of the digest together with the index constitute the final index and digest for that biennium.

As this is the first of the indexes to be published, a very free and severely critical scrutiny of the index is desired so that any defects may be immediately brought out and corrected in the indexes to follow. The index will be distributed free to the state libraries contributing copies of the laws which serve as a basis for the index and to all depository libraries. Copies will be for sale at the Government Printing Office at a price to be announced later.

This index and digest will replace the index and digest formerly published by the New York state library, which came to an end in 1909. It is expected that

this index and digest will prove a determining influence in standardizing the terminology of state legislation and also in promoting uniformity in the state laws where uniformity is desirable.

State legislators contemplating a new law or a revision of the existing law will find this index and digest the best means of determining what has been done in other states and in this way can take advantage of the experience thus gained.

### A Notable Branch Library Building

An unusually handsome building was dedicated to library purposes as a branch library of the Indianapolis public library, Indiana, on May 21. The building was a gift to the library, after having been used as a home for 25 or 30 years. Samuel E. Rauh, a retired business man of the city and his wife presented the building.

The main hall on the first floor, a handsome, large room, will serve as the delivery room, with the center desk placed at a point of great convenience. The children will have two large rooms on this floor for their own. The small children will have a large solarium with low chairs and tables, and older children will have the room adjoining, which was the family library, where their magazines and books will be easily available in a room a little apart from the younger group.

The very handsome dining room is to be a "readers' refuge." History, biography and travel books will have a place there—the books one wants time, quiet and comfort to enjoy. Easy chairs, ample light and surroundings will add to the great pleasure it will afford.

On the other side of the hall, is the reference room where cases and stacks will be opened to the public and where quick and ample service can be rendered when needed. Up-stairs, a staff room has been gaily furnished by the donors. Smaller rooms will be devoted to conference and committee work while a large

ball room furnishes a small assembly room with seats for 75.

Fourteen thousand books will be put in the branch, which tho having been built for a handsome home, will serve as an example of elegance with which houses of that day were constructed.

Mr Rauh and his family have also given sums of money to be expended for finely illustrated editions of classic literature which will add to the pleasures and treasures of their gift.

The dedication was a special event in the city. Nearly 100 relatives returned from various parts of the country to be present at the festivities.

### Mss. in the Vatican Library

In order to preserve priceless manuscripts in the library, an electric steam generator is being installed in the Vatican library. This device emitting steam into the library, it is thought, will keep the ancient books and valuable manuscripts from cracking as a result of the excessive dry air experienced in Rome during the winter months. The apparatus will be completely automatic in operation.

The climate of Rome is very changeable. In damp weather, the atmosphere becomes so humid that it has been necessary to install an electric heating apparatus that solved only half the problem. In the dry weather, moisture was entirely lacking and the manuscripts were in constant danger of breaking.

There are priceless manuscripts and scrolls in the library which takes first rank among the world's libraries in its antiquity and in the wealth of historical material it contains. There are more than 34,000 ancient manuscripts alone. Among them are several ancient versions of the Greek New Testament and the manuscript of Virgil. There are about 400,000 printed books, many of them as priceless as the rarest of manuscripts.

The library was founded in 1547.

—*Science News-Letter.*

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### A Union Catalog of the London Libraries

A conference of great importance to the students and the general readers of the Metropolitan borough libraries was held May 9. Councillors and librarians from practically all of the London libraries (including the Guildhall library) met together to discuss the desirability of compiling a Union catalog of all of the non-fiction books in the London libraries.

Mr Thomas Gorrie, convener of the library sub-committee of the Carnegie Trust, in his opening remarks from the chair, reported that the Carnegie Trust had decided to finance the undertaking during the period of compilation to the extent of making a capital grant of £1050, and an annual grant of £850 for at least three years.

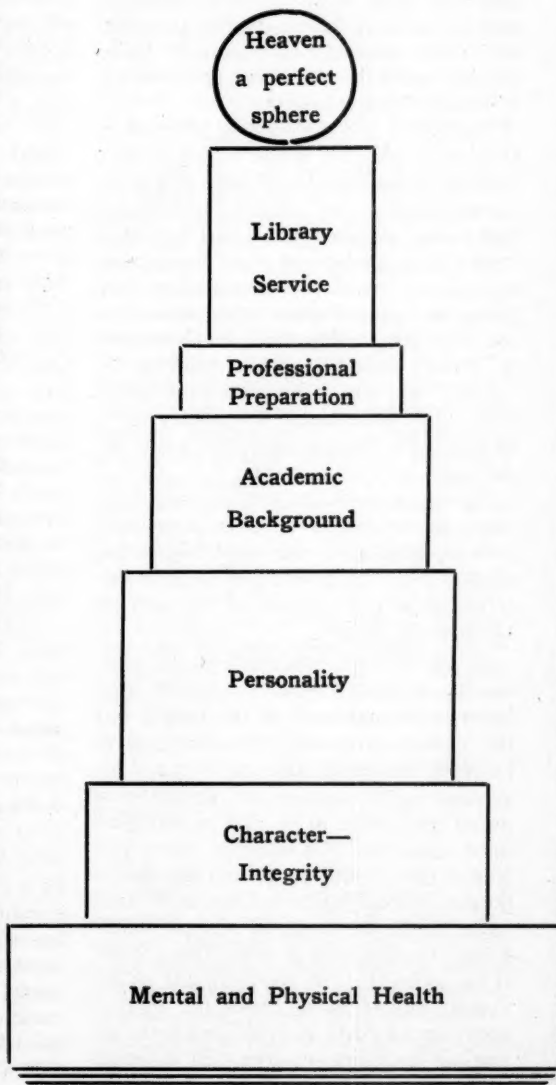
The trustees' generous offer was welcomed with gratitude by the delegates, some of whom, as authors, journalists and students, had themselves felt the need of such a catalog. The chairman recalled that so long ago as 1902, Mr Sidney Webb, in his book on London Education, had, with great practical vision, called attention to the immense boon a Union catalog would be to students.

The delegates were unanimously in favor of the scheme, which will be directed from the Central library for students.

When completed, the Union catalog (on cards) will enable a reader to ascertain the whereabouts of any book which his own local library does not possess. He will be able to consult books located in this way in the reference libraries of the Metropolitan boroughs. Thus many thousands of scarce and valuable volumes will be made available to a wider public, and the overcrowded reading room of the British Museum will be relieved to a considerable extent.

### Life History of a Librarian

(My notion. W. E. H.)



### The Special Library in the Public Library<sup>1</sup>

I doubt if there are many who would support the thesis that the collection of books ideally adapted to Portland, Oregon, would necessarily be ideally adapted also to Portland, Maine, that the reading habits and demands of Riverside, California, would be the same as those of Riverside, Massachusetts.

Navigation and the building of wooden ships are topics one would expect to find covered in the libraries of coast towns of Massachusetts and Maine, metallurgy and metal using industries in Pittsburgh rather than studies of mass production agriculture, furniture-construction and design in Grand Rapids rather than deep sea fisheries, mining and ore extraction in Denver rather than the growing of citrus fruits, and so on until your fancy tires. The offerings of the library must be tied with the thoughts and wants of the people it stands among.

Of course we have been thinking here solely about special libraries conceived, formed, developed, cultivated within the public library as a result of definite determination and volition on the part of the general library.

If the library is supported by the community, a proper balance must be kept between the needs of all the people and the demands of any particular group, however vociferous and insistent and ingenious in formulation of desires that group may prove to be. To be sure, one must remember that libraries work with books, the printed page, and when this means of expression has not been used to set forth the needs of any particular group, the librarian is freed from blame if no books for that group appear on his shelves and if many books for another group stand forth and call emphatic attention to their presence. It is much easier, for instance, to buy books for teachers than for blacksmiths.

When is the general public library to decide that the book needs of any part of the community are too special for it to cater to? No one can complain if it does not supply credit rating books. They couldn't be bought even if the librarian set out to get them. And they are too special and too intimate a tool to justify spending any public money on, even if they could be purchased by anyone with sufficient funds in hand. And no one would think for a moment that the library ought to try to provide enough copies of the United States Pharmacopæia to let every druggist in town send in to borrow it as occasion demanded. And the local advertising agency expects as a matter of course to supply its own copies of the American Newspaper Directory or similar foreign books. But how about the situation when the dictionaries and books of travel are called on in unprecedented fashion because an ingenuous circulation manager of a newspaper or press agent of a theater is stimulating circulation or attendance by means of a contest hinging on misspelled words or incorrect descriptions of foreign cities or mountain ranges?

Just one more way of saying that when special needs grow to be so insistent and important that they demand an improper amount of attention as compared with the needs of the general body of readers or borrowers, then the time has arrived for those special needs to develop a special library and to support it by special funds. It may be a library in a factory or business house; it may be a library for a special group of the community, a society, an organization of business men or manufacturers or exporters or merchants. The time will certainly come in the life of any growing community when it is unfair to expect special needs to be met by general effort.

H. M. LYDENBERG  
Assistant-director

Public library  
New York City

<sup>1</sup>Abstract of an address at the A. L. A. conference, Tuesday, May 14.

### Speeding Up

Experience has shown that one of the important factors in developing the usefulness of the Newark library's business branch has been the practice of making material directly accessible to the business men themselves. Because of this practice, those seeking information can themselves solve their problems without asking for assistance, tho should help be needed, there are reference assistants at hand.

Ease of general access to material at the Business branch is produced by limiting the size of the collections thru strict observance of the confines of the work; care in their layout and display and by continual effort spent in indexing and exploiting the material. A local business man may have seen in his copy of the Newark city directory an advertisement of the directory collection at the branch. He goes to the new building on Commerce Street and walks into a long room with no bars, gates or desks impeding the entrance. Near the door, at one side, are desks where reference assistants are working, but, before he asks for the directories, he sees along the wall a row of book cases with the conspicuous label "City Directories" and there in an alphabetical arrangement by city, he can find the volume he wishes. Further down the room, he sees trade directories arranged by subject. On the other side, are maps rolled up on their platforms but with plainly labelled handles, and nearer the door is a long table backed by a rack containing the investment manuals of the Poor, Moody, Standard Statistics Corporation and similar publications. Thru the carefully planned layout, and the display of material, he may discover the information he wants without needing help from the library staff, and he can see many others doing the same things. There may be several people consulting the staff on more puzzling problems and information is freely furnished over the telephone; but above all, he feels that the individual's unimpeded use of

his business library is facilitated in every way.

Another visitor may want the current market price of a mineral not actively marketed. The assistant on the second floor will help him scan the periodicals that, according to the *Classified Magazine List*, have market prices and another problem will be solved. The key to the Business branch material provided by the *Classified List of Business Magazines*, *The Mailing List Directory*, *Business Books 1920-1926* and other special indexes so increases the speed and ease with which the resources of the branch may be used by staff and patrons that they amply compensate for the hours of labor put into their preparation.

By avoiding material on technical processes and limiting it to the business management angle, and by removing promptly all superceded data, the collection is kept compact and usable by the average business man. Continual revision of the method of adding, displaying and using material helps in reducing red tape and delay and in developing more complete use of the material. Advertising special resources thru window displays, branch publications, newspaper stories, paid space in publications, and by other means helps Newark business men to know their branch. All in all, the activities relating to the Business branch have as an objective, the free and speedy use of the branch resources by business men themselves.

CATHERINE MANLEY

Public library.  
Newark, N. J.

The model town library has a circulation of five books per capita, one assistant for every 20,000 books circulated; expends 50 per cent of its income for salaries, 25 per cent for books and periodicals, 10 per cent for binding and supplies, 15 per cent for maintenance; offers trained service, carefully selected books, extension of service thru branches and stations, coöperation with schools, clubs and all community interests.—*Selected*.

### An Interesting Report from North Carolina

*The Handbook of the Citizens' Library Movement*, issued by the North Carolina library association, is a mine of information not only about the library movement in North Carolina but it gives a good deal of important general information used in a matter of comparison.

Harvard, 151,500; Yale, 75,004; Illinois, 59,578; California, 42,674; Columbia, 39,893.

#### Expended for books:

Harvard, \$236,597; Yale, \$134,004; Michigan, \$127,466; Chicago, \$127,427; Illinois, \$127,006; Columbia, \$124,072; Minnesota, \$108,107.

#### Appropriation:

Michigan, \$142,940; Columbia, \$139,735; Chicago, \$134,335; Yale, \$118,138; Minnesota, \$101,155; Illinois, \$98,100; California, \$77,750; Wisconsin, \$56,585.

Comparison of North Carolina public library expenditures, number of volumes, and circulation with that of United States (1926)

| Area  | Income of Expenditure |              | Volumes in P. L. |              | Circulation of Volumes |              |
|-------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
|       | Total                 | Av. per cap. | Total            | Av. per cap. | Total                  | Av. per cap. |
| N. C. | 114,364               | .04          | 173,814          | .06          | 1,166,422              | .45          |
| U. S. | 35,347,156            | .33          | 65,561,796       | .62          | 226,142,926            | 2.13         |

A similar study in many other states might be urged.

The Citizens' Movement is fostered by the North Carolina library association under the direction of the Library commission. The idea is to bring up the library service of North Carolina thru county-wide service on a par with the other public service movements in the state. Most of the organizations for the betterment of the community are listed, and in addition, there is a long list of personal membership of "those who have resolved themselves into a state of war against appalling library conditions." This makes the responsibility personal and doubtless will make more effective a contribution than could be done by the organization effort alone.

### Statistics of University Libraries<sup>1</sup>.

An addenda to the report of the University of Oregon library deals interestingly in matters on which comparisons between that library and other libraries may be made.

Some of the largest figures are as follows:

Volumes in library—  
Harvard, 2,784,300; Yale, 1,902,512; Columbia, 1,132,236; Chicago, 799,593; Cornell, 789,790; Illinois, 768,329; California, 706,635.

Libraries adding the largest number of volumes in 1927-28:

#### Largest staff:

Columbia, 161; Michigan, 119; Chicago, 116; Pennsylvania, 75; Yale, 74; Illinois, 63; Princeton, 63; California, 51.

#### Salaries:

Columbia, \$281,372; Michigan, \$233,156; Chicago, \$230,857; Yale, \$145,968; Illinois, \$143,302; Harvard, \$132,365; Minnesota, \$129,825; Pennsylvania, \$112,976.

### Recent Award of Carnegie Scholarships

The following people have been notified that library scholarships have been awarded to them by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The scholarship stipend is \$1,500 each.

Elaine Boylan, assistant-secretary, Oklahoma library commission; Katharine B. Carnes, librarian, Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia; Leon Carnovsky, assistant-librarian, University of Washington, St. Louis, Missouri; Marion Patch, University of Michigan library, Ann Arbor; Rose B. Phelps, instructor, Library school, University of Illinois; Miriam D. Tompkins, head of adult education, Milwaukee public library; Anna Marie Tremaine, reference-assistant, Toronto public library; Nell Unger, librarian, Reed College, Portland, Oregon.

Plans for the second Pan Pacific Women's conference to be held in Honolulu, August, 1930, are being formulated. These meetings will be held under the auspices of the Pan Pacific Union which is made up of the representatives of the countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean.

<sup>1</sup> See LIBRARIES 34:246

## The Washington Conference of 1929

### General meetings

From all directions, trains and trains filled with librarians and their friends poured into Washington City on May 12 and 13. At first thot, one might conclude that this was to be a time for seeing many co-workers, renewing pleasant associations of more or less extended periods, meeting new people known either by name or fame, and altogether an occasion for intellectual stimulus and refreshment of soul, *But alack and alas!* It was a *city meeting!* And when hour after hour, the continuous crowd passed thru the gates of a beautiful railroad station, they scattered in every direction immediately, and only occasionally and oftener not at all, did one meet again those whom they might have greeted on arrival. More than a score of hotels widely scattered cared for the delegates.

Washington City has an auditorium ample, comfortable and appropriate for such meetings as that scheduled by the A. L. A., but the fact that it was so large and had so many departments also militated against close association. The assembly room was large enough to admit those who came, and in the neighborhood of 3,000 persons did assemble, but the distance from one side of the hall to the other and from the entrance to the stage was beyond the power of vision for many and would have presented an impossibility to auditory nerves were it not for the splendid service of the microphones. And even with this, owing to reverberation and the unsteadiness with which the various voices were sent thru the intricate circles of that instrument, much in effect and distinctness was lost in reaching some parts of the immense hall. An odd sensation was received by the location of the microphones which sent out the voices of the speakers from the corner of the hall. The distance between most of the audience and the speakers was so great

that the latter, none of whom were oversize, seemed like moving points of color to most of their hearers.

The morning of Monday was taken up with special meetings which, with the exception of the Institute, were attended only by those directly interested in their procedure. The meeting of the American Library Institute much resembled a meeting of the A. L. A. in the early years. Papers were presented. An audience of serious minded and, for the most part, more than middle-aged people listened. The meetings were open, and advantage was taken to see and hear for a while, at least, interesting addresses by those who were not tied down by duties elsewhere.

The general sessions, perhaps, might be called the rallying point of the entire program tho one and another of the sections at various points were of sufficient interest to gather in many of the visitors. The first general session on Monday night was very graciously welcomed by Judge Wendell Stafford, Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and probably the main reason for his presence, vice-president of the Board of Trustees of the Public library of Washington.

William J. Cooper, U. S. commissioner of education, made his premier bow to the A. L. A., setting forth the things which he hoped might be done in his department and soliciting the interest and coöperation of the library field in his endeavor. He mentioned particularly his desire to build up a notable collection of books dealing with educational matters, especially a library that would show by the contents the development and advancement of education in the U. S.

Mr R. R. Bowker, editor of the *Library Journal*, New York City, gave an account of the recent celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of Dr Herbert

Putnam as Librarian of Congress. Mr Bowker attributed to the personality and the self-effacing service of Dr Putnam, the great growth not only in size, but in quality and influence of the Library of Congress. Thirty years ago it ranked fourth with the great libraries of the world. Today, it is in the van and likely soon to be without rivals. He reviewed the wonderful growth in the past five years—the music division in the beautiful auditorium, the inauguration of the Trust Fund Board, the great enrichment by gifts of books and documents and source material, the development of the library thru Dr Putnam's vision, into a seat of scholarship and culture unequalled in the country. It will in time bring together the seats of learned societies "whose national influence will radiate from the nation's capital." In this, the largest share of credit will belong to the dreamer of dreams for the future, the nation's librarian, Herbert Putnam.

Miss Eastman portrayed a picture of what she hoped to see in the future when every town and village had a library adequate to its needs as a part of a county library or a state library system and cities with a complete library system reaching all its citizens. Miss Eastman closed her address with a very earnest plea for the membership to take an interest in the efforts which are being made to increase the budget necessary to carry out the plans and purposes of the various committees to which has been delegated the extension of library service from their various angles. (See p. 247.)

At the close of the speaking, a telegram of greeting and cordial regard was offered by Dr Frank P. Hill of the Public library, Brooklyn, N. Y., which was sent to Mr and Mrs Henry J. Carr of Scranton, Pa., long prime favorites of the A. L. A. "The Carrs" have become well-beloved "institutions" of the A. L. A. and have long held the top line in attendance.

A reception was scheduled for Monday night in the exhibition hall. It might not be amiss to say here that in not any previous meetings of the A. L. A. has the exhibition hall been so adequate or so effectively and beautifully occupied by those who are interested in giving the members of the library profession a clear notion of what they have to present and their readiness to coöperate with the buyers of library material on a fair and square basis. Such a presentation ought to do much in broadening the notions of the library folk of the spirit of service in the library world. While the hall was adequate for the purpose of exhibition, the multitude of booths made it almost impossible to come in contact, except by accident, with those who were present. If one stood still, many others passed by, among whom friends might be discovered, but for a reception an exhibition hall well filled with displays in booths is not recommended as a place in which to meet one's friends.

At the second general session on Tuesday morning, most of the time was devoted to business. The secretary presented the printed reports which had been prepared and distributed before the meetings. After felicitations between the president of the A. L. A. and the vice-president of the Special Libraries association, H. M. Lydenberg of the New York public library read a paper covering the scope, activities and value of the special library in the public library.

The Special Libraries association had expected to present Dr Julius Klein of the U. S. Department of Commerce, but he was unable to be present and Dr E. R. Hunt who has been making a survey of American industry, took his place.

Dr Hunt reviewed the great material prosperity present in America since 1900. "The greatest draw back in business today," said Mr Hunt, "is economic illiterates but this is being attacked and the business world is in the eye of the public because of the studies that are

made of various subjects. All this was started by Mr Hoover when he was secretary of Commerce and dozens of subjects are now under survey by the U. S. government as well as private interests. Public economics and welfare are being connected. An attempt is made to draw conclusions. The "top buggy" transportation of Jefferson's day will not meet the needs of the world today. The present movement of large plants is away from congested centers and the mingling of the rural and urban population is making for a better understanding of the economic needs of both.

The progress made in the work of libraries for the blind and some of the future needs was presented by Robert B. Irwin, American Foundation for the Blind, New York City. Mr Irwin called attention to the great cost of preparation of this class of books and also to the fact that the cost had been somewhat reduced by recent improvements and advancement in printing. The bulky size of the books for the blind has been somewhat reduced, also, an advantage both in conserving library space and in transportation. The cost is still a problem. Mr Irwin thought the only solution for a long time to come would be found in endowment by the public and generous coöperation among libraries.

The third general session was held on Thursday morning. Mr Wyer, vice-president of the Association, occupied the chair. The first address was by Hermann Hagedorn—the story of the movement to build up the Roosevelt Memorial collection. This was intended to be the most complete assemblage of Roosevelt material in the country. It was founded by a group of women in 1920 to perpetuate his ideas, words and activities, and will include all literary work by him, all material about him, including the history of his times as affected by his words and actions.

Mr Charles Moore, the well-known authority on his topic, gave a splendid

address on George Washington. He ascribed much of the fine character displayed by Washington in his later life to the struggles of his youth and to the severe training and experience through which he passed as a young man making his way, speaking of the discipline he received in carrying out the instructions of his superiors both in engineering and military science. The popular lives of Washington which have been so much in vogue in times passed, have served one good purpose in creating an interest in the character. Mr Moore thinks the time has come for a more serious, definite, and, therefore, more truthful presentation of the great character whose gifts of service and example of conduct to his country are unparalleled.

President F. P. Keppel of the Carnegie Corporation recommended heartily the idea of reading with a purpose. Reading is not lost effort but much of its effect is wasted. Dr Keppel spoke of the chance effects of slight reading which if guided to purposeful reading, may lead to immeasurable results. To those whose habit of reading was not formed in youth, a big book is formidable, therefore, a little book will oftentimes catch the interest, arouse it, and lead to greater results than a casual reading of a big book. The reports show that the discussion of the topics presented in the "reading with a purpose" series have been really effective in attracting readers to the larger volumes. Dr Keppel thought the most good in Reading with a Purpose series was received when the books were read voluntarily. He expressed the firm belief that what is done under duress is of little good. Reading little books is nibbling, but nibbling often cultivates the taste. Reading for diversion and reading for direction are both good, but the results of neither can be measured.

Reading in the younger years done with pleasure leads to further reading, and reading is a continuous stimulant for the mature mind. Little will be gained

without the right mental attitude in reading. Reading with a purpose does not mean the idea expressed by "Go to, I'll improve my mind," but all improvements must be built upon present interest. Solitary readers may attain their purpose but people like to read in groups.

The new ideas in education and the new type of college instruction will make the work with schools much easier for librarians. Colleges are finding how to keep the interest of the alumni. Emphasis must be put on higher things than base or foot ball. Colleges are looking for a better bond between their institution and their students, both present and past. They are interested in advancing educational methods, educational products, but nothing is settled at present and new ideas are developing. Dr Keppel expressed the opinion that the new basis of interest will be reading.

Dr Keppel, for many reasons, is a prime favorite in a library audience, not the least reason being that, however high his aspiration, his reach and his ideals, "he keeps his feet on the ground."

Everett Dean Martin of the People's Institute, New York City, was one of the outstanding speakers of the closing meeting on Saturday morning. Mr Martin said that since he was always mentioned in connection with "liberal education," he had begun to understand how Aristides felt about his title, the Just. "A liberal education," said Mr Martin, "is an experience and a growth." The most important is growth in quality rather than quantity. The changing attitude towards what is termed education, the change in what is put into it and what is received from it, are so great that the next few years will show a new account of it. Discussion will produce results. A few will chew and digest the book and that few will move the whole.

Education in the early years was for the few. The books were classics, art, religion and study of the ancient. Thus man developed with culture. It was that

then and with some reason, that trade debased the mind. Jackson and his class believed in universal growth. The mass movements of today ignore education not only for the few but for the many. Literature, religion, art, require too much mental activity to be popular. The audience of the present wants its material cut down to the lowest common altitude. Education today has no drive—everything goes. Educational congresses have no objectives, no word to show man to be a choosing animal. Confused as to the values in education, the educated man is different from the herd. Ignorance is opinionated. The educated man gets a victory over his ego. Belief is less than understanding. Too many have the power to put over without knowing what to put over. It is as if there were fine engineers for the ship, but no pilot. Education is a game with education supplying the power to play it. Science, philosophy, religion, are games to understand which is a fine aim for life.

American people want to be amused but they don't know how to play. Mr Martin said that "People who can't cook, can't sing." To create a world in which circumstances and society could be at home is a high aim. Mr Martin criticized those who take a short cut to education by seeking intellectual and cultural development with the greatest ease. He referred to the advertisements which promise education in one volume. Courses of study that do not impress people with the knowledge offered but meet a desire to appear genteel are a distinctly modern contribution to educational theory. Intelligence makes a poor showing in competition with quackery. People today will not even take time to read the newspapers. They read the tabloids. The movies set the art standards of today. The artist of old painted his pictures for the discriminating few, but now must cut his picture down to the level of the lowest cranium altitude.

David L. Lawrence, editor of the *United States Daily*, was most cordially received when introduced to the audience. Mr Lawrence's talk was practical and gave a stronger grip to the librarian's appreciation of the worth and dignity of his work. He also urged the librarian to think in terms of government and to talk the same. He urged librarians to try to undo the rawness of the present age, to improve the spirit towards government in the schools and libraries, to synchronize things and people. The method of doing this is most important. A duty of the library is urging people to read worthwhile things.

Radio makes people mentally lazy. Good governments in any locality, are possible only under intelligent, educated morality, otherwise the qualities make it repulsive. Government should be chosen as a calling early, in attaining education. Members of a government go wrong because they do not understand how to use the government's special ends for the service of the people. Government rests on law and law on understanding of things, and this is simple education. Coöperation, as a factor in government, is most important. It must be better understood. It is the duty of the library to teach the public how to find and use information.

#### At the end

The Resolutions committee expressed deep appreciation for the efforts of the Local committee on arrangements; also to the libraries of the Federal departments, the District of Columbia, and the Library of Congress for the opportunity of seeing the sights and enjoying the hospitality of Washington.

It was announced at the final session that the next convention will be held in California, the city and date to be determined later.

The Committee on libraries in the national parks recommended that the matter be placed in the hands of the Roosevelt Memorial committee with a

pledge from the A. L. A. to support the efforts of the latter in that work to the fullest extent.

The unopposed candidates named by the committee, were all elected. (See LIBRARIES, 34:117)

The newly elected president was called to the platform and President Eastman turned over to him the gavel as a signal of his newly acquired authority. President Keogh responded in a few words and the fifty-first meeting of the A. L. A. was declared adjourned.

#### General notes

The *Science News-Letter*, May 11, issued a list of the scientific and technical libraries in the District of Columbia as a compliment for the A. L. A. visitors. The libraries were classified by contents, the location and the name of the librarian being given.

The sum of \$3000 has been given to the A. L. A. committee on Institution libraries to conduct prison library research in Massachusetts for one year, by the Bureau of Social Hygiene, N. Y., through the influence of the Hon. Sanford Bates, recently appointed superintendent of Federal prisons.

Many persons regretted the omission of the former plan of presenting in the program sheet, an index to speakers and meeting places which appeared in former programs. It was impossible without considerable "research" to find where different persons scheduled to speak on subjects on which they are authority, were to appear.

The widely spread localities in which the meetings were held and too, the difficulty of locating on time the presentations which add attractions for a number of visitors was something of a trial.

The expectation raised by the program of seeing Mrs Mary Roberts Rinehart was doomed to disappointment. The winner of the Newbery medal, however, pleased his audience. In his speech to the conference, Professor Kelly said that

he got his idea for his book from his own experiences in Poland and that he is a firm believer that human emotions and experiences may well go into one's writing. He caught the attention of his listeners when he said that nobody should go to college until he has read Alice in Wonderland.

Dr Bostwick of St Louis public library has a way of adding color to a statement by his way of putting it. He made a contribution of that kind in his presentation at the Washington meeting. As reported by *The Monitor*, he declared:

Writing on "popular science" by uninformed writers does more harm than good, that those who are competent to translate research into ordinary tongue are few, inasmuch as the popularizer of natural science must be familiar with what he is trying to popularize as well as with its terminology and with the interesting statement of it in ordinary English. Denying that the free library injures the book trade, he declared that it is a "vast system of general literary publicity with free distribution of samples."

President Hoover was voted an honorary member of the A. L. A. at the closing session. He was nominated by Samuel H. Ranck of the Grand Rapids public library who referred to the wonderful World War library which has been collected by Mr Hoover, beginning in 1914 and which now is one of the most complete and interesting on the world war, in existence. There are more than 2,000,000 pieces in the collection which contains material from 47 countries. The material consists of not only books, but mss., cartoons and records. In addition, Mr Hoover is an author of the volume, *Principles of engineering*, which has gone into several editions.

Dr T. P. Sevensma of the Netherlands, head of the League of Nations library at Geneva, was voted a corresponding member of the A. L. A.

A critical essayist would have found much on which to comment and from which to draw conclusion in the various rhetorical efforts of many of the speakers. Some speakers who came from outside the library circle, as usual brought

loads of information to the librarians about books and what is in them, about their use and value, and much else which librarians are supposed to know before they begin their work.

A new feature in the official conventions relating to library conventions is the appointment of delegates by public officers. It reached a point in the meeting of the A. L. A. in 1928 where it attracted attention by the number of delegates appointed by the governors of the states from which they came.

The governors of various states followed the example of last year and named various persons in the state, delegates to the Washington meeting of the A. L. A.

This year, as reported in the press, various governors are naming librarians who expect to attend the International Congress of librarians and bibliographers at Rome as delegates from the several states.

Governor Emmerson has named Dr T. W. Koch, librarian of Northwestern University, and Miss Martha Wilson, chief librarian of the Lincoln library at Springfield, as the two delegates from Illinois.

Andre Van Eck, assistant-librarian, Amsterdam, Holland, and Harald Poulsen, M. A., district library, Roskilde, Denmark, were two interested and interesting visitors at the A. L. A. meetings.

A delegation from New Orleans libraries was a welcome innovation at A. L. A. There were present, Robert Usher, librarian of the Howard Memorial library, Mrs Usher, Alice M. Magee, Louisiana state library, and D. D. Moore, the newly appointed librarian of the New Orleans public library. This was Mr Moore's first appearance at an A. L. A. meeting and those who came to know him during the week were pleased to count him as "a find."

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### Notes on Special Meetings

#### Interest for blind readers

This round-table held at the Library of Congress on the evening of May 16 was quite successful. Altho only a small group, it is beginning to have the active coöperation of librarians everywhere. Public interest is being awakened and blind readers are benefiting thereby. Adelia M. Hoyt of the Library of Congress presented the main paper of the evening.

An abstract is as follows:

While blindness is diminishing thru preventive measures, touch-reading is steadily increasing. This is due to more general education, better library service, and an increased supply of attractive titles. These new books have been acquired some by purchase, more by gifts solicited by the American Foundation for the Blind and others, and by hand-copied books transcribed and presented by volunteers of the American Red Cross. However, tho welcome, each accession adds to the problem of shelf space. The development of two-side printing, which reduces the bulk of a Braille volume more than one-third, is helping to meet the situation.

Library service among the blind differs in many respects from other library work. It is largely a "mail-order service" involving the work of wrapping, transportation, and to a certain extent, book selection for readers. The librarian must know her collection and the tastes of her readers and be her own "readers' adviser." Catalogs and book reviews in Braille would enable the reader to make more intelligent selections, but so far, the cost of printing these has prohibited their general use. Since collections for the blind must be limited they should be representative. Books for embossing should be chosen not at random, but systematically, to meet the needs of all classes.

It is hoped that the survey being conducted by the American Foundation for the Blind will point the way to districting circulation to regional libraries, which is the goal of the future. Blind students in colleges and high schools need special texts which are being supplied by volunteer copyists. These manuscripts should be collected, bound and cataloged, so as to be available to others.

Librarians for the blind and others interested are facing and trying to solve some of these problems.

Mr A. G. S. Josephson of Fairhope, Alabama, also presented a paper on Better books for the blind. The rest of the evening was occupied in discussion and in reports from the librarians in Boston,

Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Albany, New York and Chicago.

One interesting feature was the question of how to make available to all the blind students of the country, special material now held by different libraries. A motion was carried to have a union catalog of this material printed.

#### Book selection

Miss Mae Massee, formerly of the *A. L. A. Booklist* and now with the Doubleday Doran Company, said there are two kinds of publishers—the bookish ones and the human ones. She expressed the belief that human ones are responsible for the most interesting discoveries in authors. Miss Massee advised librarians to be kind to book salesmen, to give them a hearing, because salesmen who really know their books will be worth listening to and salesmen may gain something by talking to librarians.

The Seattle public library advocates building collection of books which will be good for future use instead of merely having ephemeral value.

Book selection by the staff was advocated as a means of developing interest among its members, as being most nearly what is wanted by the librarian, and relieves the librarian from taking the full responsibility for the approval of books.

#### Buildings committee meeting

The question of storage of books outside the library building again came to the front in the discussions of library buildings at Washington. Mr C. E. Sherman of Providence stated that the demands of service make it necessary to provide for branches and other forms of expanded activity but the high land valuation as well as expensive building construction in down-town areas bring the question of book storage outside such localities, to the front. Further, bindery, print shop and garage must be provided for on different consideration.

Mr Dudgeon of the Milwaukee public library suggested installation of shelving

in corridors, in lecture rooms, and separate alcoves, and the location of newspaper reading rooms in downtown buildings other than the library.

Mr Walter of the University of Minnesota called attention to the changing attitude of educational institutions in giving their libraries complete use of the building instead of forcing them into miscellaneous administrative offices. Mr Walter expressed the belief that study halls and reserved book rooms may be distributed in the future at convenient points outside the library building, leaving the latter to devote its entire space and attention to the book requirements of students and faculty.

Clarence E. Sherman of Providence was elected chairman of the Building committee for the next year.

#### The Business Library section

The newly organized Business Library section met on Thursday evening in an unusually large audience, with Miss Elsa L. Loeber, Chamber of Commerce, New York library, in the chair. After a few preliminary remarks, the chairman called on Mr George B. Utley who congratulated the business librarians on their efforts to form a section and welcomed them into the groups of library workers of the A. L. A. He urged them to set their ideals high so that others seeing their good work might grow more enthusiastic in their own.

Miss Alice Tyler also welcomed the new group as an organization and pointed out some of the things they might do in their contribution as a group. She urged especially that the business libraries section stand for sound education, general intelligence, good preparation, with a clear knowledge of how to use library technique to the best advantage in giving library service to their various positions. She warned against lowering the standards because of the isolation from regular library environment, and she urged the librarians to create an un-

derstanding friendliness toward library service, on the part of business. This will add to the respect for their work which a man of business, appreciating order and system might feel.

Mary Eileen Ahern pointed out as the *raison d'être* for the business library, the firm's convenience and service. The librarian is to be as much of an expert in her business, which is to find promptly just what is needed, as any other expert in the firm. This will mean constant endeavor on the part of the librarian to understand the purpose, the content of the business so that information that is needed may be delivered with promptness and certainty.

The librarian's temptation to accretion must be strongly resisted. Material of various kinds will be necessary, but should consist mostly of reports of activities akin to the firm's interests, especially reports of the general government, of the state and city. Special material in the library should be chosen for its relation to matters in the business world, and should be largely graphs, photographs, blue-prints, but only a few volumes of special interest need be gathered.

The public library should be, and nearly always is, a friend to the business library. No other idea is tolerable on either side, and no sort of competition should enter on either side. The librarian must make contacts for mutual advantage with the other libraries in the community.

Only large cities would seem to have place for a separate business library. In cities, not counted as large communities, the needs of the business world can well be taken care of by the public library. If the public library is attentive to the needs of business, when the public library needs support for its projects, the friendly, intelligent interest of the business man are a valuable asset. Libraries of all kinds are expected to and do extend the boundaries of knowledge. A business man seeing what he gets for

his own business from library service will help his community library for the sake of his business; just as he assists schools tho he may not have any personal interest in its work. He will realize that the more intelligent the people of a place are, the better it is for the conduct of his own business.

Miss Haller of Buffalo, N. Y., spoke of the growing power of the business library in holding the interest of the business men.

Miss Fisher of Portland, Oregon, related some interesting experiences she had in gaining the attention of the business men in that city.

Miss Hatch of the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, Pa., told of the appreciation of the business men of that city in the Business branch of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Miss Louise Krause, librarian, H. M. Byllesby Company, Chicago, outlined the field of service for the business library, laying particular stress on the advantage that would accrue in small communities by making service to business houses, a special effort on the part of the public library of the place.

#### Children's section

The John Newbery medal awarded annually by the Children's section for the most distinguished children's book of the past year was presented this year by Carrie E. Scott, chairman, to Eric P. Kelly, a professor at Dartmouth College, for his book, *The trumpeter of Krakow*.

The scene of *The trumpeter of Krakow* is laid in the ancient city of Krakow in Poland. In Krakow, as far back as man can remember, a trumpet signal has been blown every hour from the lofty parish church of St. Mary the Virgin. Making his hero a trumpeter on St. Mary's tower in about 1462, Professor Kelly has very ingeniously contrived to interweave the hero's personal fortunes with the most momentous issues in

Poland's politics of the time. The plot of the book was written when the author, at the invitation of the Kosciuszko Foundation, was studying and teaching at the University of Krakow.

The officers of the Children's librarians section for next year are as follows: Chairman, Effie L. Powers, Cleveland public library; vice-chairman, Alice Stoeltzing, Carnegie public library, Pittsburgh; secretary, Julia F. Carter, Cincinnati public library; treasurer, Helen M. Reynolds, Detroit public library.

The members of the Newbery Medal committee are: Harriet W. Leaf, Public library, Akron, Ohio; Mary Gould Davis, New York public library; Kathleen Adams, Los Angeles public library.

#### Radio round table

A difference of opinion as to the value of the radio as an educational means developed from the discussion at the round table. Mr Spaulding of Des Moines broadcasts personally to reach the rural audiences. It is not easily done nor is the interest continuous. Following a jazzy program was found to be more favorable than following another speaker. Retaining the same time and employing the same speaker induced people to look for their program understandingly.

The St Louis public library believes in the power of the radio but was not enthusiastic about the response from the public to its work. Dr Bostwick believes in broadcasting subject matter rather than formal book reviews. The opinion prevailed that it will be a long time before there is any list of names of those who attribute their inspiration to "listening in on the radio."

The Cincinnati public library gives three types of broadcasting—reviews of adult books, reviews of adult non-fiction books, radio work for children including the story hour and the participation by the library in the educational work of the Ohio State Department of Education.

### Small libraries round-table

M. Louise Hunt, Racine, Wisconsin, opened the session by asking the definition of a "small library." Mystery seems to surround this question, but all agree that lack of expert personnel is the problem of the small library today. Its need of trained workers is greater than that of the large library, but this problem rests largely with the trustees.

In discussing Comparative value of side lines in the small library, Margery Quigley, Montclair, New Jersey, speaking of "When to avoid side lines," stated that today, libraries are beginning to find themselves and learn that their true function is to supply books and first-class information to their communities. Any side line which does not lead back to books and worth-while information should be avoided. The small library is just as much in need of a full-time paid publicity expert as the larger library.

Some of the side lines to be avoided are free use of the library halls, lantern shows, lectures, exhibits, story hours, making of posters and lists, studying for points by members of the staff, and organized gatherings for staff members.

Flora B. Roberts, Kalamazoo, Michigan, discussed the opposite point of view, When to follow up side lines. Communities must be studied and side lines weighed. What would be of value in one community may be useless in another, and also what may have proven profitable 10 years ago is perhaps useless today. Activity must be guided by book stock, staff and income.

Miss Roberts particularly stressed the point that library workers should study for growth rather than points.

Margaret Jackson, Kingston, Pennsylvania, stated that of the five thousand and more libraries in the United States, the majority fall within the class designated by the A. L. A. as the "smaller libraries" and unto them is especially given the opportunity to approach the individual and prescribe books for him.

Consideration of what the small libraries can do to help the man and woman who are helping themselves by extension courses of every kind has been given much thought by librarians of many small libraries. Many helpful suggestions have been collected from their experience by Miss Jackson.

The officers for 1929-1930: Chairman, Alice Williams, librarian, Public library, Moline, Illinois; secretary, L. Marion Moshier, librarian, Public library, Ilion, New York.

### Trustees

Some 50 library trustees were at the meeting called to discuss their problems. It was estimated that this was too small a number out of the 40,000 library trustees thruout the country. An effort to enlarge the number of interested trustees was named as the prime activity for the section for the next two years.

C. C. Oglivie, trustee of the Goodwin Institute from Memphis, Tennessee, was named chairman of the Trustees section to succeed Charles Cassel of Connersville, Indiana. Mrs Frances M. Harmon Zahn of Los Angeles, California, will be secretary. As the trustees section always has good attendance and interesting programs when meeting in California, great expectations are aroused for the next meeting.

### Association of A. L. Schools

A meeting of the Association of American library schools was held in Washington, D. C., on May 13. Fifteen schools were represented. Subjects discussed included the relations between the association and the A. L. A. board of education, a code of ethics, and the teaching load in library schools.

The following officers were elected:

President, Dr C. C. Williamson, director the School of library service, Columbia University; vice-president, Mrs Harriet P. Sawyer, principal of the St Louis library school. ISABELLA K. RHODES

Secretary-treasurer

### The American Library Institute

A session was held on Monday morning which opened with an address by the president, Prof H. L. Koopman, Brown University. No copy of address at hand.

The address, Adult erudition, (see p. 250) by Mr Stevens was well received and by motion was ordered printed in full.

President Koopman spoke of the intense pleasure he had out of his reading of the new volume, *Classification of knowledge*, by Henry E. Bliss of the College of the City of New York, and asked Mr Bliss to speak of his new book. Mr Bliss responded most entertainingly, stating that the volume was a presentation of his own ideas long working in his own mind with regard to developing logical order in the classification of knowledge and, particularly, the system of sciences. This volume was the first of others that were yet to come, wherein, he hoped to make clear the possibility of a better organization of the field of knowledge than had yet been developed.

Charles Martel of the Library of Congress spoke commendably of Mr Bliss' work, tho reserving the privilege of differing in some particulars. This difference of opinion, however, did not prevent him from acknowledging the depth of the profound study which Mr Bliss had given to his work and the debt which the book world owed Mr Bliss for what he had done and his proposals for future writing on the same line.

F. K. Walter, The University of Minnesota, enumerated the burdens connected with interlibrary loans, said burdens being in the main, the inattention, indifference and lack of conscience on the part of those who indulged in the practice. The drawbacks of the system—absence of books when wanted, frequency of extension of requests, carelessness in handling, delinquency in returning, selfishness in quantity borrowed, all added to the burden of any library engaged in the practice.

Best book lists, a peril to our scholarly profession, by Henry B. Van Hoesen of Princeton University, set forth the inadequacy of "best lists." The assumption of authority to speak by those who had not the ability, the inclusion in lists of material of a low rate of value and the danger of a growing dependency on lists instead of larger research on the part of the student, all condemned much of the idea of "best booklists."

Dinner was served for about 50 members of the Institute at the Willard Hotel on Tuesday evening. At the close of the feast, a general discussion took place as to the policy of the Institute toward various questions that were up for consideration in the circles of the A. L. A. Attention was called again to the fact that the chief business of the A. L. I. was free discussion of policies, measures, and tendencies in librarianship. President Koopman invited the members to express their opinions freely on matters of common interest, which was done.

Acknowledgment was made of the printing by LIBRARIES of Mr Severance's report at the West Baden meeting. The secretary reported that there were still on hand a number of these reports which were available for distribution to anyone who applied for them.

Mr Koopman was of the opinion that the Institute should give its moral support to the efforts of the new U. S. Commissioner of Education, Dr Cooper, in his efforts to build up an educational library of note in his department.

A number of fellows of the Institute both elected and ex officio who do not usually attend were present. Mr Bowker occupied the place of honor on President Koopman's right and entered freely into the discussion. At the close of the meeting he invited the Institute to hold its next meeting at his home in Stockbridge, Mass.

### Special Libraries Association Annual meeting in Washington, D. C.

Members of the Special Libraries association were enthusiastic about the meeting which was held in Washington. It was an entirely separate occasion from the A. L. A. meeting but two joint sessions with other associations and a joint dinner were held. The morning meetings were devoted to general subjects and group sessions were held in the afternoon. The character and personnel of the Washington libraries were decidedly advantageous to the meeting.

A rather curious comparison that was offered was as follows:

The A. L. A., at the end of 20 years, had 512 members and the S. L. A., after the same length of time, had 1,129. The income from membership after 20 years in the two associations was A. L. A., \$1,195; S. L. A., \$5,320.

A person commenting on that says:

The comparison left at this point is incomplete. The S. L. A. would not have been possible at all, even at the end of the A. L. A.'s 20 years, not to mention the beginning. It is hardly statistical to ignore the fact that the membership of the A. L. A. were pioneers in the full sense of the word, that the S. L. A. was and is today heirs of the hard work in creating intelligent interest in the use of books which made and still makes the S. L. A. possible.

One of the important features of the library conference in Washington was the session of the Special Libraries association, in which a closer relation between the United States and Latin America was advocated. "A better knowledge of divergent opinions will be an important contribution to continental understanding, peace and solidarity," said Dr Enrique Olaya, minister of Colombia to the United States. "To serve this purpose, good books constitute one of the most important elements. Books which reflect the trend of national thought will obliterate prejudices which ignorance establishes. One of the great tasks to be accomplished, is to bring together elements which represent scientific culture in the two Americas and no medium can serve this purpose so

efficaciously as books, reflecting the phases of thought of the people."

Ambassador Carlos G. Davila of Chile expressed the hope that a constant and scientific urge of data on the printed output of countries may give each a better understanding of the other, both coming to know and appreciate the field of the common intelligent production. The field of contact between the U. S. and the republics to the south has reached enormous proportion. For the safety of this and the happiness of the people of the respective countries, a better understanding is necessary. This can come about by association and by study and knowledge of the political and social principles offered in the literature of both.

Officers for the coming year are as follows: President, William Alcott, librarian, *Boston Globe*; vice-presidents, Florence Bradley, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and Margaret Reynolds, First Wisconsin National Bank; secretary, Herbert O. Brigham, Providence, R. I.; treasurer, Elizabeth Cullen, Bureau of Railway Economics, Washington; directors: Angus Fletcher, British library of information; Arthur C. Bostwick, St Louis public library; Eleanor S. Cavanaugh, Standard Statistics Company.

It is believed that *Adiós!* (Morrow) is the first novel to use Los Angeles during the gold rush period as its principal locale. Writers heretofore have thrown their novels of this period to San Francisco and the mines. But, as the authors (Bartletts) show in *Adiós!*, Los Angeles was the real seat of native life during those hectic years. Many Americans think of Los Angeles as being wholly a product of the boom of 1889. As a matter of history, it came into being by royal decree of King Carlos III of Spain in 1781 and is one of the two surviving communities of California that were so founded.—*Selected.*

### Library Meetings

**Boston**—The Spring meeting of the Boston group of catalogers and classifiers was held on the evening of April 11. Mildred M. Tucker served as chairman.

Officers for the year 1929-30 were elected as follows: Chairman, Helen Moore Laws of the Wellesley College library; secretary-treasurer, Ethel M. Turner, Massachusetts state library.

Mr Currier spoke on the need of the extension of coöperative cataloging among the larger libraries. It was felt that the A. L. A. might help by assigning a sum of money to make an investigation. Letters from Mr Milam to the chairman of the A. L. A. Catalog section were disappointing since it meant that no appropriation was likely to be made. The N. Y. Group had passed a resolution expressing its regret at this result. Mr Currier proposed the following resolution which was adopted by vote of the Boston Group:

*Resolved:* That the Boston group of catalogers and classifiers bring to the attention of the Executive Board of the A. L. A. the importance of the proposed investigation of a further extension of centralized cataloging service and present an urgent recommendation that funds be procured for this purpose.

William D. Goddard, librarian of the Woburn public library, spoke on the subject, *The Classifier in the small library*. He outlined the procedure the classifier should follow in regarding the library collection as a whole and in deciding on the changes needed to make the collection more easily accessible to the public.

Dr Robert Malcom Gay of Simmons College gave an interesting talk in contrasting the old methods in biography with the new. He said that the reading of biography today is due to the fact that writing it has become an art. An entertaining selection from Boswell's Johnson, one of the earliest artistic biographies in English literature, showed many of the points emphasized now.

**Georgia**—The Georgia library association held its biennial session in Rome, April 29-May 1, 1929, with Miss Margaret Jemison, librarian of Emory University, as president.

At the first general session, Miss Barker, of Atlanta, discussed the training of teacher-librarians to meet the requirements of the standards as established by the Southern association of colleges and secondary schools; Julia Wright Merrill, executive secretary of the Library Extension committee of the A. L. A., spoke interestingly on phases of A. L. A. extension work; and Miss Wyeth, librarian of the Savannah public library, gave a valuable review of book reviews, discussing the relative merits and usefulness of *Books*, *The Saturday Review* and *The New York Times Book Review* section.

On Monday night, the members were guests of the trustees of the Rome public library at a very delightful dinner. The chief speaker was Dr W. A. Shelton, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament literature at Emory University. His most interesting address on *The Archives of the past*, was accompanied by slides, the photographs for which Dr Shelton himself had made on an archaeological tour he had taken.

On Tuesday morning, Mr J. H. Durgin of the Trade department of Macmillan Company gave an interesting talk on the making of books, describing the process from the time the manuscript arrives until the finished product comes from the presses of the printer.

The morning was then given over to round-tables. Miss Elizabeth Havenkotte, librarian of the Valdosta public library, led the Public Libraries group. Library mergers, Inventory in a small library, The usefulness of Georgia state publication, and State archives and history received attention.

The College section presided over by Miss Sallie Boone of Mercer University, Macon, discussed Wesleyan College's

new library, the library of the new Emory Junior College and the general college library problems.

Miss Helen Daughtry, head of the children's department of the Washington Memorial library, Macon, conducted the Children's Work section, and gave an interesting discussion of standards in book buying for children, distributing a mimeographed list of titles to avoid. Other subjects presented were Ways of attracting children to the library; Co-operation between librarian and teacher; Teaching the use of the library; Books for the intermediate grades; Book-week activities; and Vacation reading-club.

The afternoon session was devoted to a school-libraries round-table led by Miss Beverly Wheatcroft, secretary of the Georgia library commission.

Spencer McCallie of the McCallie School for Boys in Chattanooga, Tennessee, discussed the high school library from the school man's point of view, giving also the origin and history of the new standards for high school libraries set up by the Southern Association of colleges and secondary schools. Miss Mary Frances Cox, head of the Boys and Girls room of the Carnegie library, Atlanta, outlined the coöperative plan between library and school in Atlanta, and Miss June Rainsford, librarian of the Academy of Richmond County, in Augusta, gave a talk on the high school library as an independent agency.

On Tuesday evening, there was the usual book symposium dinner, but this time it was of particular interest as it was a Georgia "literary products dinner," the reviews being confined to books by Georgians published in the last two years.

At the last meeting, Mr Brockman of the Bookmobile, gave an interesting account of his travels in that most interesting of vehicles. Miss Wheatcroft talked on the county library situation in Georgia and bespoke the very active support of the librarians present in the

permissive county library law that is to come before the legislature at its next session. A committee was appointed as a campaign committee to further the passage of the bill.

At this meeting, the following officers were elected:

Sally M. Akin, president; Elizabeth Havenkotte, first vice-president; Nelle Reece, second vice-president; Katharine Carnes, secretary-treasurer.

FANNY D. HINTON  
Secretary

**Hawaii**—The Hawaii library association, organized in 1921 by the library workers of the territory, held its eighth annual meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 1929.

Librarians from the other islands as well as those from Oahu met with representatives from the school department to discuss school and library coöperation, as many thousands of books are loaned to the schools each year by the various libraries.

The general meeting of the association was held at the Y. W. C. A., with 50 members and guests in attendance. Miss Margaret Newman, president of the association, presided. Several reports were given in the brief business session.

Officers elected for the coming year were: President, Mrs Laura Sutherland, Library of Hawaii; vice-presidents, Mrs Isabel Welsh, Hilo library; Mrs Juliett Davis, Maui library; Miss Agnes Smith, Kauai library; secretary, Miss Maude Jones, Library of Hawaii; treasurer, Miss Catherine Delamere, Normal School library.

There are several little known collections of books in Honolulu and the librarians in charge were asked to tell something of their resources. Miss Morse spoke on the collection at the Honolulu Academy of Arts which is an art reference library emphasizing the Oriental. Much valuable material on home archi-

ture and decoration is included, and framed and unframed pictures are loaned to the schools. Miss Bernice Judd told of the complete collection of books, pamphlets and manuscripts on Hawaii making up the Carter library. A small group of books on Pacific problems is kept at the Institute of Pacific Relations for reference use, according to Miss Clarke. The material in the Bishop museum is on Polynesia, with many reports on scientific matters. Mrs Lonctaux, who is in charge of this department, gave a brief talk on library publicity.

Mrs Geizer of the University of Hawaii, who has been studying the resources and needs of school libraries in the territory, gave a report of progress on her findings.

A most interesting talk on bookbinding and the preparation of books for the bindery was given by Mr B. B. Futernick of San Francisco. He closed his talk with a practical demonstration of book-mending.

A dinner was held at Waikiki Tavern. The guests of the association included Mr and Mrs Futernick and the trustees of the Library of Hawaii and their wives. Several short talks were given following the dinner and three boys from the Library of Hawaii staff entertained with music on stringed instruments. A short play, centering around the troubles of a worn-out librarian, ended the day's program.

STELLA MAUDE JONES  
Secretary

**Louisiana**—The fifth annual meeting of the Louisiana library association, held in New Orleans on April 18 and 19, marks another milepost in the library history of the state. The attendance was nearly double that of last year.

Miss Culver in her president's address called attention to the fact that 1,200,000 people in Louisiana are entirely without library facilities, a statement which called forth editorial comment in the newspapers.

J. O. Modisette, Jennings, chairman of the Louisiana library commission, conducted a discussion on parish libraries which elicited the fact that there are but two such libraries now functioning, tho two other libraries, in Shreveport and Monroe, are supplying library books to people in their respective parishes. The reports of the eager use made of this service made patent the need for other parish libraries.

Robert J. Usher speaking on Government documents in the public library urged that more use be made of this valuable literature. He pointed out that practically every phase of life was covered by these publications and on some subjects the reports issued by the government furnished the only printed material in existence.

Emma Lee, children's librarian of the Rosenberg library of Galveston, Texas, summarized recent juvenile publications, mentioning especially the revised and enlarged *Index to Fairy Tales, Myths and Legends*.

Mrs Olive Henry Crane of the Shreveport Memorial library in speaking of The Value of the story-hour said that if the story-teller had done her part well, censorship of children's reading would hardly be necessary as they would be so eager to read the literature made enticing by the story teller.

Magazine selection and the value of clipping collections found a prominent place in the program.

James McMillen, librarian of Louisiana State University, opened the College Section meeting with a talk on The College library, its administration and organization, which was followed by a lively discussion.

Mr Frans Blom of the department of Middle-American research of Tulane University gave an interesting summary of leading source books for the study of the early history of the Americas. He supplemented his talk with an exhibit of the books mentioned and distributed

brief bibliographies which he had prepared.

M. S. Robertson outlined the work that is going on in an effort to reduce the number of illiterates in Louisiana.

Miss Louise Krause in an address, *The World of print in the world of business*, said that an adequate library with an efficient librarian in charge would save money for any business.

D. Ashley Hooker, drawing upon his experience in various types of libraries, showed what valuable service could be rendered in big cities in solving scientific problems and in meeting economic conditions, and in smaller communities by supplying the needs of the worker and giving guidance in educational and cultural development.

Well known Louisiana authors (Dorothy Dix, Grace King, Professors John S. Kendall and Richard R. Kirk) added much to the enjoyment of the annual banquet by recounting some of their experiences as writers and telling a bit of Louisiana history. Professor Kirk read a number of his poems.

The following officers were elected:

President, Robert J. Usher, New Orleans; first vice-president, Mrs Lillian H. Mitchell, Monroe; second vice-president, Mrs Olive H. Crane, Shreveport; secretary, Margery Williams, New Orleans; treasurer, Mercy Ellis, Jennings.

**Michigan**—The twenty-fifth annual conference on Children's reading of the Grand Rapids public library was held Saturday afternoon, May 4, in the lecture room of the Ryerson Library building.

Miss May G. Quigley, chief of the Children's department, opened the conference by reading comments on Industry and literature, from letters from Allen French, J. Russell Bond and Burton Stevenson.

The subject for discussion was Industry and literature. Miss Minne Votruba,

teacher of English, Vocational and Technical high school, opened the discussion. Her paper was very practical in tone touching upon her actual everyday experiences in vocational work. Her attitude is, to quote Miss Votruba:

The majority of our pupils being hand minded do not care about reading. But once they find work they can do well, through the desire to master their subject, —technical books are sought.

Will not these boys and girls, more intent than ever in their mastering special fields, keeping up with their trades and crafts learn much of allied work and through that be led to read books of a purely cultural value?

George F. La Bour, a manufacturer of furniture, a father and former page in the library, considered the subject from an entirely different angle. His interest was in the broadening and humanizing influence that literature may have on the industrial life of the boy and girl. To develop as sanely as possible the character of a youth thru proper reading, especially of the established classics, was the message he conveyed.

Mrs John H. Muller, a mother and a former teacher of science, emphasized the spiritual dangers of our industrial age, the effect of over standardization on the individual. She left her audience feeling that surely something must be done to provide boys and girls a safe means of expression for the romantic urge within them. A general discussion, from the persons in the audience, followed. (Mrs Muller's paper will be printed in LIBRARIES later.)

MAY G. QUIGLEY

**Tennessee**—The annual meeting of the Tennessee library association was held in Murfreesboro, April 18-20. The program included two business sessions, two sessions devoted chiefly to reports of progress during the year, and two groups of round tables, one divided by types of libraries, the other by types of work.

Underlying the entire meeting, was a feeling of great rejoicing over the two new library laws, county and mu-

nicipal, which had just been signed by the governor. Those who have studied conditions in Tennessee believe that the elasticity of these laws will make it possible to introduce library service even into the small rural counties of the state. Effective assistance in the passage of these laws was given by the State federation of women's clubs and the Parent Teachers' associations.

Another objective adopted at last year's meeting, that of standard library training in the state to meet the new high school library standards of the Southern association of colleges and secondary schools, has been reached in the establishment of library training at Peabody College and at the University of Tennessee.

It was decided that during the coming year, first emphasis should be placed upon giving publicity to the new laws, and studying the library situation in the state to determine the best plan of procedure in establishing libraries under them. Because of the need of carrying over certain projects for another year, the association voted to retain the same officers:

Mary E. Baker, University of Tennessee, president; Harold F. Brigham, Carnegie library, Nashville, vice-president; Esther L. Bergen, University of Tennessee, secretary-treasurer.

#### Coming meetings

Illinois library association, at Urbana, October 16-18.

The Ohio library association will hold its annual meeting for 1929 at Cincinnati, October 9-11.

The annual meeting of the Nebraska library association will be held at Beatrice, Nebraska, October 17-18.

The twenty-fifth anniversary meeting of the New England College librarians will be held at Worcester, Massachusetts, June 7-8.

The Spring meeting of the Western Massachusetts library club will be held at Mount Hermon Boys' School, Massachusetts, June 18, 1929.

#### Summer Library Conferences

Special and extensive preparations are being made for the fourth summer library conference to be conducted by the Wisconsin Free Library commission at Madison, July 1-13. Full information will be sent on application.

Under the title, An adventure in adult education, lectures, discussions and exhibits will present the changing and enlarging phases of library work. In place of the regular summer library school, these two weeks of intensive consideration will serve as a sort of library clinic for the active workers in the profession. A cordial invitation to be present is extended to those interested.

The program being prepared will cover rural community study, general library problems, library service for schools, and a books course. In addition, there will be hours of consultation, round tables and thruout, various exhibits in charge of experienced persons who will be glad to give any information desired concerning them.

The social side will not be neglected. The conference will open with formal greetings from the University extended by President Frank and Miss Zona Gale, distinguished Wisconsin author and chairman of the Library commission. Miss Gale has chosen for her subject Implications, a topic which implies something well worth hearing. An informal reception will follow the addresses.

Special provision has been made for those who are interested in registering for the courses arranged for the Rural leadership, Summer school of the College of Agriculture—Sociology and community life by Prof R. J. Colbert and a choice between Farm relief programs and problems by Prof B. H. Hibbard and Rural sociology with emphasis on com-

munity organization by Prof J. H. Kolb. The Rural Leadership school will also offer course in Psychology for public speakers, Personality and social adjustment and Play production by eminent professors in the university. These courses are open to members of the library conference taking the full course if arrangements are made at the time of registration. Alternative topics for hours will be Technical and professional subjects, and Library business and management.

The Books course is especially attractive with speakers eminent in their various fields in University circles making presentations. Several evening features are planned that present interesting aspects. In addition, the University summer school recreation program will be open to the students. A round table for trustees will be held over the weekend. The conference for county librarians will be called during the conference period instead of its usual time in the spring. Special preparation of exhibits for which the Wisconsin library school is noted are being arranged to supplement the various courses. The libraries of Wisconsin are making generous contributions to the exhibits showing the development of their work.

Registration will be made on Saturday, June 29, and Monday morning, July 1. The conference fee for the full time is \$5, for one week \$3, and 50c by the day. Headquarters will be at the Wisconsin library school.

Among those who have been engaged for the program are:

Prof John Muyskens, University of Michigan; Prof Charles L. Jamison; Prof W. G. Bleyer; M. S. Dudgeon, Milwaukee public library; Samuel H. Ranck, Grand Rapids public library, Michigan; Prof B. W. Phillips, Wisconsin high school; F. O. Holt, former superintendent of the Janesville public schools; Mrs Jennie M. Turner, State board of education; Letha M. Davidson, supervisor of children's work, Des Moines public library; Mr M. H. Jackson, state supervisor of school libraries; Prof Carl Russell Fish; Prof W. A. Sumner; William Ellery Leonard; Miss

Mary Eileen Ahern, editor of **LIBRARIES**; Clarence S. Hean, College of Agriculture.

#### Iowa

The tenth annual library conference usually held at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, in connection with its summer library school, will be in session this year, July 2-3.

These meetings are for "Concentrated conferences" among librarians, trustees, students—present and former. The meetings will be held in the Administration building of the University and it is intended to have a practical program. Miss Helen Aken of the Iowa library commission will discuss county library work; Miss Grace Shellenberger is expected to present The Mississippi River in literature; Prof B. F. Shambaugh of the University, The Small library and local history; Professionalism in librarianship by Mary Eileen Ahern, and other speakers are expected.

#### The Radio in the Library

It is reported by Charles H. Brown, librarian of Iowa State College, Ames, and chairman of A. L. A. radio broadcasting, that the following libraries are broadcasting regularly:

Public library, Buffalo, N. Y.

WKBW Thurs. 7:45 p. m.

Grosvenor library, Buffalo, N. Y.

WKBW Fri. 7:30 p. m.

Public library, Cincinnati, O.

WFBE Wed. 8:00 p. m.

WLW Sat. 11:00 a. m.

Public library, Des Moines, Ia

WHO Tues. 5:15 p. m.

Public library, Los Angeles, Calif.

KHJ Wed. 2:30 p. m.

KFI Mon. 5:45 p. m.

Public library, Omaha, Neb.

WOW Wed. 4:00 p. m.

Library Assn. of Portland, Ore.

KEX Thurs. 4:00 p. m.

KWJJ Sun. 2:00 p. m.

KOAC Mon. 8:00 p. m.

Public library, St. Louis, Mo.

KMOX Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 12:45.

Iowa State College library, Ames.

WOI Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.,

Sat. 9:10 a. m.; Wed. 10:00 a. m.

### Interesting Things in Print

A reprint from the *N. E. A. Journal* of a list of 60 educational books of 1928 may be had from the N. E. A. or the A. L. A. for 15 cents.

The Public library of Ottawa, Ontario, has issued a list of the books added to its stock from December 1, 1927, to December 1, 1928, exclusive of fiction and children's books.

*Books and Pamphlets on Library Work*, issued by the A. L. A., appears in a new form and includes all publications issued by the A. L. A. The publications of 1928-1929 are starred.

The Pratt Institute free library, Brooklyn, N. Y., has issued as a reprint from the *Quarterly Booklist*, a booklet containing "Fifty conspicuous novels of the first quarter of this century."

A mimeographed list of newspapers and magazines in the library of the Pan American Union has been issued. This list is a complete record of the periodical literature in the library of the Pan American Union at Washington, D. C.

The Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore, Maryland, has compiled for the Baltimore Association of Commerce a selected list of books on exporting, importing—ports, terminals and shipping. The list is confined to commercial books and magazines published since 1920.

An interesting speaker (Carlton), Original silhouettes, Readable books on the out-of-door-sciences, Among the new books, In the fishermen's Seine, are the headings of interesting columns in *The Bridge* for May, published by the Albany public library, New York.

The Public library of Newark, N. J., has issued a list of children's books portraying life in all parts of the world under the title, *Everyland*. The 12 pages are pictured with cuts representative of the country whose books are listed. The

list will be sent for five cents, with quantity prices.

An article on the county library movement by Julia Wright Merrill of the A. L. A. Extension committee, appeared in *Rural America* for March, 1929. It may be had from the A. L. A. in reprint.

"Books wanted" by Miss Merrill has been reprinted from *American Farming* for April.

A pamphlet issued by the National Thrift committee, 347 Madison Avenue, New York City, gives a report of the twelfth nation-wide observance of Thrift Week. The reports come from all over the country and give the kind, character and success of the Thrift Week observances.

The *Wisconsin Library Bulletin* gives a page to the new A. L. A. textbook on *The School Library* by Miss Lucile Fargo. It gives a chart developed on the basis of a duty analysis and made under the direction of Dr W. W. Charters, and as a part of the A. L. A. curriculum study.

The United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics has issued a list of references to material published since 1922 relating to labor requirements of farm products in the United States. The list was prepared by Louise O. Bercaw under the direction of the librarian of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

*Constructive Lettering*, by William Day Streeter, is a practical volume on the subject of lettering. The volume may be highly commended for the simplicity, directness and form of its teaching. No words are wasted, every sentence gives either advice or definite instruction. Libraries will find this a popular volume for their technical art collection.

The addresses delivered at the Fifth Biennial conference of the Southeastern library association at Biloxi, Mississippi, November 7-9, 1928, have been issued in

a pamphlet. The papers are all from writers who have proved, in the service which they have rendered to the library field, that their theory and knowledge of the subjects warrant the attention of those interested in libraries.

A pamphlet on *Publicity for small libraries* by Carl L. Cannon, New York public library, just issued by the A. L. A., forms Chapter 31 in the *Manual of Library Economy*.

Mr Cannon is one of the foremost authorities on library publicity and what he has said in this pamphlet of 36 pages may well be studied carefully by those who are charged with library administration.

A list of books on China, issued with the purpose "to further an understanding of her position in the world today" has been compiled and issued by the Library committee of the Institute of Pacific Relations, San Francisco. Some 17 volumes are listed with notices evaluating their place in the study of Chinese relations with the rest of the world, and a list of several books relating to Chinese literature is included.

An interesting discussion with opportunity for differences of opinion in the valuation of the material included is offered by the List 20 (May 1929) of the Book Review club of Greater Boston. The recent fiction is classed under 1) novels of literary value or included because of author's prominence, 2) stories of more popular appeal, 3) detective stories. The non-fiction is divided into 1) biography, 2) poetry and essays, 3) psychology and health, 4) travel, 5) miscellany.

A catalog listing the prints of famous Dutch and Flemish paintings on exhibition, May 1 to June 9, at the Sunderland (England) public art gallery, museum and libraries, has been issued. These prints are the work of the Medici Society of London. The locations of

the original work of the Flemish and Dutch Masters are given.

A selected list of books on Dutch and Flemish art, available in the Sunderland public libraries, completes this interesting little booklet.

Number 3, Volume 1, of the *School Betterment Studies* has been issued by the Henry C. Frick Educational commission, Pittsburgh. *Youth and the Beautiful* was presented by an outstanding artist; *Youth and the Good* was presented by an outstanding humanitarian; *Youth and the True* was presented by an outstanding scientist.

The Commission is constantly engaged in experiments with high school pupils, the reports of which may be found in *School Betterment Studies*, copies of which may be secured on application to the Henry C. Frick Commission, Pittsburgh, Pa.

An interesting booklet, *Program Suggestions for South Dakota Clubs*, has been recently published by the South Dakota library commission in an attempt to urge the club women of South Dakota to go to their own public libraries when looking for material.

Suggested books are listed under the following subject headings: How to review a book, Present day Russia, The home beautiful, Recent books for study, Influences on American public opinion, The prairie, Present day American art, Present day American theatre, American cities, Around the world in America, The awakening of Asia, Changing China, and South Dakota.

The 1927 volume of *The Subject Index to Periodicals*, published by the Library Association (English), is now available. It is in one volume, the entries being in one alphabetic sequence.

There are some 600 periodicals indexed and the price of the volume is based on the cost of production and made possible by the willing help of many volunteer workers. It is printed

in double columns (556) and is a royal quarto in size. The price is 3£ 10s, bound in cloth. The volumes for 1923, 1924, 1925, will be issued as soon as possible.

The entries relate to 21,000 articles selected from British and American periodicals. The alphabetical subject headings are based mainly upon those used by the Library of Congress. Magazine fiction, verse and essays not possessing subject matter are not included.

Frederick A. Blossom, who is in charge of the James B. Ford library of the Explorers club, New York City, makes an interesting report on that library.

The work accomplished remedies as far as possible the lack of a librarian during the past five years. The principal things accomplished have been a pamphlet file for unbound material, arrangement of a collection of maps and charts, development of a file for official publications of various governmental departments both here and abroad. A complete set of all of their books on exploration that are still available were presented by G. P. Putnam's Sons and Harcourt, Brace & Company of New York.

The new quarters of the library, improved methods and increased facilities with constant addition to the material of the library, are making it a valuable factor of the Explorers club.

A gripping editorial is that found in Volume 8, No 4, of *The Kalends*, an interesting little publication of the Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., publishers of scientific books. The editorial was brought forth by the receipt of a piece of direct mail advertising and the particular thing in the ad that is justly condemned is as follows:

"Radio—Golf—Motoring—Movies—Vacations are influencing us all *not to read* anything more than we absolutely *must* to earn and sell more." The words in italics appear in fat bold-faced type in the original. The logic developed from this premise is that one should confine all attempts at

literature to postcards imprinted by the addressing device.

Not to read anything more than we absolutely must to earn and sell more! Neither Sinclair Lewis nor 'Gene O'Neill in their most devastating moments ever conceived our civilization at such a floodtide of utter vulgarity. To earn more and sell more—ambitions, we seem to be informed, which represent the highest possible unfolding of our *Kultur*. Of what service is reading, is intelligent understanding, is the literary art to such a climacteric? None whatever.

An annotated list of German novelistic and bellettristic prose works in English translation (1917-1928) has been issued by the University of California. It is a reprint from material which appeared in *The Spokesman*, a periodical of the University of California.

The introduction to the list by Franz Schneider, associate-professor of German in the University of California, is of unusual interest as it deals with the question as to why a great flood of American books has recently been translated into German. It is rather startling to have Professor Schneider say of this flood:

If one looks into the reason for this activity, one will find it chiefly prompted by the question: What sort of a country is the United States anyway? Hence detailed descriptions of American life are much in vogue, such as Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*, the books of Sinclair Lewis, and those of Upton Sinclair. If one in turn asks whether a similar interest prompted the translation of German works into English, it seems hardly to be the case.

An interesting paper, *The New biography*, by George F. Bowerman, librarian of the Public library, Washington, D. C., which was read before library and literary organizations in Washington, has been published in pamphlet form by the District of Columbia library association.

Dr Bowerman notes the growing popularity of the biography as a literary form and thinks it is destined to outdistance the novel in time. He presents his conclusions with regard to the ideas and ideals of the new practitioners of "the new biography." He names as leaders three Englishmen, Strachey,

Nicolson and Guedalla; one Frenchman, Maurois; one German, Ludwig; and one American, Bradford. He analyzes their attitude toward this recent form of writing, and the theories which underlie their attitude not only as to the literary form of their work but as to the characters in the various volumes.

Dr Bowerman's own comment at the close of his analysis of biographers is interesting. After analyzing the functions of biography, he utters a warning against a danger—biographers are growing more eager to write a story that will please, than to find the facts. He also warns against the drift of biographical writing toward becoming a novel as such writing with a modicum of fact, is accepted as veritable biography.

#### Aid for County Libraries

At the meeting held on May 11, 1929, the trustees of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, Chicago, expressed an interest in giving aid toward the development of county libraries in the South which will serve the entire population—rural and urban, colored and white.

It is expected that a small number of counties, well distributed, will be selected for the purpose of making demonstrations. Local authorities will be expected to provide adequate buildings. Contributions from the Fund are to be used exclusively to supplement local funds available for books and for service.

The Public library of Providence, Rhode Island, has adopted a beautiful silhouette illustration of a little boy and girl together holding up a book. It was especially prepared for the library by Miss Rosa Burnett, a student of the Rhode Island School of Design, and will be used on all printed matter issued in connection with the library's service to the boys and girls of Providence.

#### The Traditional May Day Breakfast Wisconsin library school, 1929

There is always something new under the sun in a May Day program, for each succeeding class of the Wisconsin library school seems to mark this annual festival with the stamp of its own personality. So this year's celebration, while held at the College club, as in recent years, was enlivened by new stunts, new rhymes, new take-offs, new ideas.

Students and friends gathered at the club on Saturday morning, May 4, for a nine o'clock breakfast. Miss Florence Dragoo presided as toast mistress, with Miss Mary Eileen Ahern, Miss Susan G. Akers and Dr E. E. Witte as guests of honor. The tables were charmingly decorated in lavender and gold, with attractively printed programs. Immediately following the breakfast, Miss Dragoo announced the class president, Mildred H. Crew, who was introduced as the Captain of the Pinafore in paraphrase:

She's very, very good and be it understood  
She commands a right good Crew.

Miss Crew spoke for the Class of 1929, paying a special tribute to Mr Lester, the director, "Mr Lester, who always makes one think of pianos—grand, upright, and square." In response, Miss Reely spoke for the faculty, revealing the double life each member leads, by pointing out the practical library activities in which each engages in addition to teaching.

Miss Akers, who has been absent on leave for a year's graduate study at Chicago, has been but a name to the present class, a name printed on a slender brick-red volume. She now appeared in person and gave a very graphic account of the work of a graduate student in library science, outlining some of the problems on which students of the Graduate school at Chicago are engaged, including her own problem in cataloging.

As its honorary member, this year's class has selected Dr Edwin E. Witte,

chief of the Legislative Reference library, and, introduced in that capacity, Dr Witte spoke of government service, its rewards and ideals, welcoming the class into the ranks of public servants, since the majority of them will hold public positions.

The next speaker introduced had also seen a name to the class, a name which the toastmistress had found particularly musical and pleasing — Mary Eileen Ahern. Responding delightfully, Miss Ahern reviewed her long friendship with the school, claiming to have been "in at the borning." She complimented the W. L. S. on the solidarity of its traditional and actual history.

This talk brought the first half of the program to a close, but just before the guests left the dining room for the library for a continuation of festivities, Miss Hazeltine was proclaimed queen of May and presented with a corsage bouquet of roses and sweet peas, responding fittingly.

As a prelude to Part II, Miss Sylvia Meyer entertained the audience with two beautiful selections on the harp, enchanting her hearers as she did last year.

Two juvenile library patrons, in the persons of Jane Collier and Bernice Cox, then appeared on the scene to read from enormous scrap books, limericks composed by Catherine Ritchie and Norma Churchill; to be followed by the *pièce de résistance* of the morning, References in brief, a drama, a life-like impersonation of a morning at the library school in which, in costume, manner, voice, and gesture, the faculty were given an opportunity to see themselves as others see them. In this realistic drama, Mrs Luther was impersonated by Elleanor H. Ryerson, Miss Wilson by Alice C. Field, Miss Reely by Marie Scheie, Miss King by Florence Dragoo, and Miss Hazeltine, who "came in to make a few announcements," by Gwendolyn Witmer, who was the author of the playlet.

The final number of the program was "Required singing" and the morning came to an end to the tune of *Smiles*.

There are codes that makes us happy;  
There are codes that makes us blue;  
There are codes that simply leave us guessing

Whether we should use one dot or two;  
There are codes where commas are extraneous;

There are codes that leave us all at sea;  
But the codes that leave it to our judgment  
Are the codes that appeal to me.

#### Limericks On the Faculty

Books suggest to us Reely, M. K.  
Who works us much harder each day  
We'll get thru Selection  
By great circumspection  
How well, it would be hard to say.

Revisers of cards try to mar  
Our cards, which return from afar,  
All trimmed, so we think,  
In pretty red ink,  
In one corner a D. or an R.

There's hard-working pretty Miss Shaeter  
In a girls' school she's certainly safer;  
Friday morning she flies  
Bringing us our supplies  
We should think she'd get thin as a wafer.

We have an instructor called King,  
Who to class carries all she can bring.  
She insists that we look  
Thru every old book  
So we'll know how to find anything.

In Miss Curtiss we have a real friend  
Her aid she's all ready to lend  
When something we need  
We run with all speed  
To her office, and that is the end.

A teacher called Wilson, E. E.  
With assignments is always quite free  
Now why do you think  
She wants things in red ink?  
We ought to be near the Red Sea.

Oh, pity our poor Mrs Luther  
On practice days, it is the truth, her  
Reaction on viewing  
The things we are doing  
Is that nothing could be more uncouth-er.

Our principal's Miss Hazeltine  
At school she's "Your Highness, the Queen"  
But if you must know,  
(We assure you it's so)  
She's the finest that's ever been seen.

Mr Lester has such a kind heart  
Altho he can't tell us apart  
He never gets rough  
When we don't know our stuff  
But treats us as tho we were smart.

### Library Schools

#### Carnegie library school

In book selection and bibliography, the following faculty members of Emory University addressed the students: Theodore Henley Jack, Bibliography of Southern history; Ross Hanlin McLean, Bibliography of European history; Robert Clinton Rhodes, Bibliography of biology; Goodrich Cook White, Bibliography of psychology.

In administration, Charlotte Templeton of Greenville, South Carolina, gave six lectures on library buildings and equipment, and an account of the work of the Greenville public library; Margaret M. Jemison, librarian, Emory University, Beverly Wheatcroft, secretary, Georgia library commission, Ella May Thornton, librarian, Georgia state library, brought to their subjects the results of their own experience. Gertrude Stiles gave a series of lectures on book binding and mending.

Julia Wright Merrill, in a talk to the class, summarized the conditions of county library service thruout the South, which most opportunely culminated the period of recent study on county libraries.

Since public libraries in the South must share in the responsibility of working out library service to negroes, it was a very great privilege to have W. W. Alexander, director of the work of the Interracial commission in the South, to address the students telling them of some of the activities working for the progress of the negro.

The Southern book exposition held in Atlanta recently gave students of the library school opportunity of hearing such writers as Julia Peterkin, Roark Bradford, Corra Harris, Henry Seidel Canby, and others.

Janet MacGowan, '25, was married to Arthur Lowell West in April. They will reside in Tallahassee, Florida.

Josephine Peabody, '20, resigned as branch librarian, Carnegie library of Atlanta, and has taken a position in the Pub-

lic library of Cleveland, Ohio.

Roberta Quillian, '28, resigned her position in the Public library, Birmingham, Alabama, and has been elected to the librarianship of the O'Keefe junior high school, Atlanta.

Daisy L. Anderson, '28, has accepted a position for the summer with the Library school and the Library commission of Louisiana.

Mary Marsh, '28, will organize the library at Sumter, South Carolina, during the summer.

Among the graduates who have taken leave of absence, or have resigned their positions, in order to study are: Julia McCullough, '22, at Duke University; Velma Goode, '21, University of North Carolina; Alma Hill Jamison, '15, Emory University.

WINIFRED L. DAVIS

Principal

#### Drexel Institute

The class of '29 attended the A. L. A. meeting in Washington, D. C. The Drexel library school dinner, held at the New Willard on Wednesday, May 15, was the largest in the history of the school. Irma A. Watts, president of the Drexel Institute library school association, was in charge of the arrangements.

On April 29, Jennie M. Flexner surveyed the library school as representative of the A. L. A. Board of Education for librarianship. Miss Flexner attended all classes and made a thoro examination of the files containing outlines of courses of study, problems, etc. Enid M. Hawkins, librarian of the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, lectured to the class on technical reference books. The students served tea in the art gallery in honor of Miss Flexner and Miss Hawkins.

It is always a pleasure to receive alumni as special lecturers and the students enjoyed hearing Isabel DuBois, director of libraries, Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., on the work done in the Navy and hospital libraries.

On May 7, Dr Albert C. Baugh, University of Pennsylvania, lectured on the Evaluation of the histories of literature.

Dr and Mrs K. G. Matheson entertained the library school at luncheon on

May 8, where the students had the opportunity of meeting the president informally.

In addition to the positions filled last month, the following students have accepted appointments for the coming year:

Ruth E. Calvert, librarian, Palmyra high school, N. J.; Dorothy S. Slocum, assistant-librarian, Utica Free Academy, N. Y.

ANNE W. HOWLAND  
Director

#### Los Angeles public library

Two visitors in April were much enjoyed by the students and faculty. Miss Waldie Van Eck, assistant in the Amsterdam public library and visiting America for the first time, gave a most stimulating talk, frankly expressing her European viewpoint on some cherished American library practices. Mr Malcolm Wyer visited the school April 18-19 in his official capacity as a member of the A. L. A. Board of education for librarianship. He gave the students some valuable notes from his own experience in administering a public library.

Lectures in the Administration course have been by Miss Kennedy on library buildings; Althea Warren on the Librarian and the trustees, and Business methods and devices; E. R. Perry on the budget. Helen Vogelsson, librarian of the Los Angeles county library, spoke on Library law and finance, Mrs Theodora Brewitt, librarian of the Long Beach public library, completed the course with a series on the Staff, Statistics and reports, Community relations, etc.

The course in children's work was enriched by two lectures on Child psychology given in May by Dr Elizabeth Wood of the Research department of the City school system.

Following the spring field-work, a week was given over to the usual library visits, a large bus being chartered for the longer trips to Pomona and Santa Barbara. The public libraries of Long

Beach, Pasadena, Alhambra and Oxnard, and the county library of Ventura were also visited. A surprising variety of practices was found exemplified in these libraries. The Balch browsing room in a dormitory of the new Scripps College was one of the esthetic treats of the trip. The beautifully planned and equipped Pasadena library and a new branch at Long Beach furnished interesting studies of the Mediterranean style of architecture as applied to libraries.

John E. Goodwin, librarian of the University of California at Los Angeles, will be the commencement speaker.

GRACE HILL  
Principal

#### Pratt Institute

The class made its annual visitation to the Brooklyn public library headquarters on April 12, going thence to the Extension division where they were refreshed by tea before being shown the details of the work. A visit to the Girls' high school followed with an interesting and stimulating hour in that center of dynamic influence. The next week, the main building of the New York public library was visited. A welcome by Director Anderson, Mr Hopper ('01), and Miss Leavitt ('96), and a tour of the building, led to tea by Mrs Leslie, principal of the training class and her students.

Lectures were given this term by Miss Mabel Williams, superintendent of work with schools in the New York public library, on the relations between the public library and the schools of the city; by John Adams Lowe on library buildings, and by Miss Anne Carroll Moore on phases of work with children. The annual course of three lectures on the administration of a children's department by Miss Clara W. Hunt was concluded on April 26 by a talk on planning a children's library given at the Brownsville children's branch, itself an admirable example of the wise application of experience to the problem.

The vice-director gave a talk on Staff relations before the library administration class at Columbia University on May 1, and that same day spoke on Some aspects of modern fiction at the library institute held at Columbia.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE  
Vice-director

#### University of Washington

Already 25 students of the graduating class of 44, have received appointments.

Thelma L. Edwards, '22, has been appointed head of the Catalog division of the University of Washington library. For the past two years, she has been in the Serial Catalog section of the New York public library.

Eleanor Pineo, '27, is to return to the University of Washington library as secretary to Mr Smith.

Irene McAfee, '27, formerly assistant in the Catalog division of the University of Washington library has gone to the Public library, Vancouver, B. C., as assistant in the circulation department. She succeeds Esther King, '27, who will spend the year traveling in Europe.

Malcolm G. Wyer of the Denver public library visited the library school in April in the interests of the A. L. A.

W. E. HENRY  
Librarian

#### Western Reserve University

Following the Spring recess, the lectures on Library building by Mr H. S. Hirshberg, librarian, Public library, Akron, Ohio, have been given, with weekly visits by Mr Hirshberg. His revision (in manuscript) of the A. L. A. manual chapter preprint on Library buildings has been most useful in connection with these lectures.

Elective courses in the second semester include Advanced cataloging under Miss Barden, which was chosen by a gratifying number of students; also Hospital library work under Mrs Grace H. Birdsall, librarian, Lakeside hospital; Special types of libraries by various lecturers, the first being Alta B. Clafin, librarian of the Federal Reserve Bank, Cleveland; and Public speaking by Katharine Wick Kelly of the Play-house. Lectures have been given by Miss Marilla W. Freeman

on Present-day poetry; and by Miss Elima Foster on the books on Philosophy and Religion, both from the Cleveland public library.

A welcome visitor to the school recently was Miss Georgie G. McAfee, librarian of the Lima (Ohio) public library, who spoke in her usual gracious and convincing manner regarding some phases of library administration in medium sized libraries, and also told something of her duties as chairman of the Library Extension committee of the General Federation of women's clubs.

The "great adventure" of attending the A. L. A. conference in Washington was the feature of the May schedule. This was not required, but 45 students chose to attend, and those who did not go were available for service in the Cleveland public library system, because of the large number on the staff who attended the meeting the year their "chief," Miss Eastman, was President. Class work was suspended for the week.

ALICE S. TYLER  
Dean

#### Summer schools

A course in bookselling will be offered at Columbia University, July 8-26.

The McGill University library school will offer a course in the summer session, July 2-August 9. Full information will be furnished on application to the McGill University library school, 3459 McTavish Street, Montreal, Canada.

A summer course for library workers is offered by the University of Oregon, Eugene, July 24-August 2. The work will be under the direction of the University library staff. The visiting instructor is to be Gladys English, librarian of the Piedmont high school, California.

The Queens Borough public library will open its third year of the Library Training school in the new Central building at Jamaica. The residents of Queens Borough will be given first consideration.

## Department of School Libraries

*The youth who passes from school without acquiring the skill and habit of using his library for both pleasure and knowledge has been woefully mistaught.—W. S. Learned.*

### A Word on Children's Books<sup>1</sup>

Eric P. Kelly, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.

I think that in America we have become the greatest consumer of books from foreign lands of any country that there is in the world. Why that is, I don't exactly know unless it is the fact that most of us had our racial origin somewhere in Europe or that our language, of course, is an inheritance of a European culture, or whether it is that we are interested in people in foreign lands, whether perhaps this is part of the new movement of the world in people's understanding each other better. But, at any rate, I took this little plot of this story from Poland. What impresses me most about Poland and what impresses me most about any foreign country—France, Germany, Russia—is the native love of country which lives in the hearts of all people. In a country such as Poland, which had existed without a state, without a government for 150 years, the interests of the people and the recollections of the government were centered in some such little symbol as this song from the Tower of St. Mary's Church. If anything should happen to us, which God forbid, that we should cease to exist as a state, I only hope that it will be possible for us to exist in some such symbol as this, in some song or some poem or some book.

Professor Dyboski of the University of Krakow who was here lecturing a short time ago, said, "The Polish literature saved Poland in the nineteenth century; it may be called upon to save all Europe in the twentieth century."

This little patriotic song which impressed me so much that I, having gone to Poland to write something entirely different, something really professional and authoritative,—this little song from the Tower of the Church impressed me, set my brain on fire, and in those dark nights in the city when I was studying or writing up against one of those old-fashioned tile stoves the whole thing seemed to come to me alive. It seemed to me that these figures were passing to and fro in the streets.

That leads me to the next thing, and that is that the reason this book appeals to children is the fact that I am a product of the newspaper school. I didn't write this book for children at all. It is simply that, having been trained on the staff of the newspaper, I have been taught always to write my story just as simply as I could, to use Anglo-Saxon words in every case rather than the Norman-French words. So as I wrote it, unconsciously it took this form.

In this particular connection, you will notice on the back of the supplement of the *New York Herald-Tribune* that is in your seat, that a new set of Tolstoy's work is being published, consisting of 94 large volumes. And out of all that, what is the one which Tolstoy himself picked as his best story? It is a little, tiny story called, *The Prisoner of the Caucasus*, a story which any child can understand. The reason he picked it was this: He said that all art must have a universal appeal and that the further a thing appeals, the larger the ground over which it can spread, the greater the piece of art in that connection. So out of all he wrote, he didn't choose, "Anna Karenina" he didn't choose, "The Resurrection," he didn't choose "War and Peace," but he chose one little story as

<sup>1</sup> Eric P. Kelly, of Wartmouth college, the recipient of the 1929 award for the most distinguished book for children, in response to the presentation.

representing the best thing he did and that story is "The Prisoner of the Caucasus" and I hope those of you who haven't read it, will read it at some time or other.

There is one thing more I want to say and that is in connection with children's books. I notice how often people in later life refer to their earlier days with regret. They refer to the golden childhood hours, the old swimming pool and all that sort of business as something they have left entirely behind them in the past. I say that is not necessary; that once that thing is developed in a child, once the power of imagination with a realistic background is created, that that will last people all thru their lives and will make them happier and better people with larger backgrounds of that and will add an enormous amount of happiness to their lives.

There has been a tendency to adopt a kind of sophisticated attitude toward these things. If I were to turn my back on the land of "Peter Pan" and "Treasure Island," if I were to find myself outside of the paradise where they live, I would find the way to return barred by some person carrying a sword, a sword forged not out of my best thots but out of my foolish thots, out of my sophistication, and the person who carried that sword would not be Bluebeard or some such terrible person; it would be Pooh Bah from the Mikado.

The idea that, having read books as children, you must forget them as you grow older is perfect nonsense. If that thing can be kept up in people, it will continue thru their lives. They must not drop it because it is the most precious thing people have.

Therefore, I want to thank you for having given this honor to me, and if in any way I have been able to help you in the business of keeping people young, in keeping the imagination stimulated with this reading of books that they have read

in childhood, then I shall feel that I have done a rather good work.

### Budgets, Classification and Compensation

#### University and college libraries

The Report of the committee on classification of library personnel of the American Library Association, dealing with budgets, classification and compensation plans for university and college libraries, has been issued in a pamphlet of 75 pages. A study of 100 colleges and universities gave a basis for the specifications.

The two minimum conditions in the classification of university and college libraries are: 1) Total library expenditures per year (exclusive of building maintenance, construction and repairs) not less than four per cent of total expenditures of the university or college, 2) A minimum average library expenditure of not less than \$20 per student in a university of over 8000 full time students and not less than \$25 per student in universities of less than 8000 students.

The libraries are divided into ten classes according to expenditure, class 10 having expenditures in excess of \$150,000 per year. Some 25 pages are devoted to expenditures carefully classified and allocated.

The classification of the positions with regard to preparation, knowledge and salaries, is dealt with at length. A table of equivalents of faculty and library ranks, with corresponding titles, terminology, etc., is given. A table of ranks, desirable education and experience for all positions gives much room for serious consideration of the reports of the committee on these various things as compared with the actual facts.

The report is a supplement to that published by the Bureau of Public Personnel Administration, Washington, D. C., in 1927, *Proposed classification and compensation plans for library positions.*

### School Libraries Section

#### Meeting on May 13

On Thursday evening the school librarians heard Edith A. Lathrop, specialist in rural education in the U. S. Bureau of Education, who has been making an extensive study of the rural school library, give a most enlightening paper on The Library in the small high school. Miss Lathrop revealed the fact that 82 per cent of the public high schools reporting to the Bureau of Education have enrollments of 250 or less, and that three-fourths of these enroll 100 or fewer students. "In the light of these facts the library problem of the small school concerns itself with the majority of high schools in the U. S. . . attended largely by the children living in rural areas—the children who for the most part do not have educational opportunities equal to those enjoyed by children living in urban centers." How can the small high school improve its library conditions? Miss Lathrop believes the solution "is thru campaigns emphasizing the need for libraries, thru the employment of better trained teachers, thru library surveys, thru provision for libraries in school budgets, thru the use of public libraries, and thru constructive legislation." At its business session, the section voted to respectfully urge the Bureau of Education to publish Miss Lathrop's significant paper as a special bulletin.

That training for school library work is a subject to which many people are giving serious thought is indicated by its appearance on three programs during the conference. Mr Milam spoke on "Vital considerations in the training of school librarians" in the Professional Training meeting. Normal school and Teachers college librarians discussed the topic at their round table. At this session of the school librarians, Miss Edith L. Cook, library school of Western Reserve University, used it as the basis for her paper *Essentials in the training for work as a school librarian*. Miss Cook believes that

what the situation needs is a study of the problem in its entirety, regardless of the pressure brought to bear from those who would stress the educational side rather than that of library technique, or vice versa. She would add to the preferred curricula as indicated in library school catalogs today, survey courses in education, psychology as it applies to the child and adolescent, and an opportunity to choose book courses and field work, in their application to elementary grades and high school respectively.

Miss Harriet A. Wood was unable to be present, but sent her report on the Proposed school library department at A. L. A. Headquarters. A "project" outlining the need for such a department to act as a central bureau of information on school libraries and to give advisory assistance to school administrators and inexperienced librarians has been prepared and the secretary of the A. L. A. has hopes of interesting a donor of funds with which to carry on the work.

The section was honored in its third session in the presence of Joseph Auslander, who came to talk on *Winged horse sense*. Mr Auslander spoke extemporaneously and it is quite impossible for the secretary to give an adequate idea of his talk. It was at once a challenge to poets and librarians to revive the ancient high calling of the poet, and to restore him to his honored position in the world. Mr Auslander graciously responded to requests that he read some of his own verse, and as the *Conference Chronicler* said, he was "probably one of the few speakers during the conference whose audience insisted on his coming back for two curtain calls."

Following Mr Auslander's talk, the section reluctantly devoted itself to routine business. The question of the relation between the section and the Education committee, which had been referred by Council to the section for further consideration was discussed briefly. The chairman appointed a committee with

Mary E. Foster, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, as chairman, to work on the plan during the year and to report at the 1930 conference. Members of the section regretted very much the absence of Miss Van Deusen, who was unable to be present. The vice-chairman, Miss Annie Spencer Cutter, of Cleveland, presided ably in her stead, and will become the chairman for 1929-30.

Elizabeth Scripture, librarian, John Marshall high school, Minneapolis, Minn., and Mildred Harrington, librarian, Parker School district, Greenville, S. C., were elected to the Board of directors to succeed Marjorie Van Deusen, retired and John S. Richards, resigned.

At the close of the business session, the section divided into seven groups for informal discussion of problems in various kinds of school library work. The suggestion that it would be better to have these round tables early in the week so that librarians might become acquainted with those in their own field sooner and have more time for personal conference will be remembered in building next years' program.

A committee under the chairmanship of Gertrude Hall, East Technical high school, Cleveland, deserves hearty thanks for the splendid exhibit which it assembled and displayed in the School Libraries booth, which by the way, proved a popular Mecca for all school librarians in attendance. A partial register was kept of those who came to the booth. Of the 20 states in the list, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania led the rest with more than 20 each. One of the attractive features of the exhibit was part of the Lincoln library, the gift of books which is being assembled to go from American children to the children of Mexico. (A list of these books will be available later.)

If there is one impression that stands out in memory after the conference, it is of crowded rooms. The interest in

school libraries is growing so fast that the attendance at all our sessions was practically double that of last year. The secretary apologizes for underestimating the demand and will make very effort to see that next year there shall be ample provision for all who wish to attend.

HELEN M. HARRIS  
Secretary-treasurer

### Meeting of the Children's Librarians' Section

Washington, D. C.

The business meeting of the section was held May 14. Miss Carrie E. Scott presided, with 350 persons present.

The activities of the committees of the Section have resulted in a number of interesting lists. Action was taken looking forward to the printing of them for general distribution. Among them are A Selection of readers and primers recommended for use in children's rooms of public libraries, prepared by the Committee on readers and primers; Seven short lists of foreign picture books—Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Dutch, Czech, French and Italian. These were compiled by the Committee on the Production of children's books. This committee is also responsible for bringing back into print a number of valuable books that were no longer in print. The Book Evaluation committee reports the printing of the Anniversary list and a list of books for the pre-school child. These are both to be distributed free to members of the section. The revised constitution was adopted, the revision of most general interest possibly being the change of the name of the Section to "Section for Library Work with Children."

The Section took favorable action on a proposal to furnish enough money to buy one-half of the picture books to be included in the Lincoln library in Mexico City. The report of Miss Julia Carter, chairman of the Membership committee, shows an increase of over 300 in membership, the total being over 800.

Officers elected for the ensuing year are:

Chairman, Effie L. Power, Cleveland public library; vice-chairman, Alice Stoeltzing, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh; secretary, Julia Carter, Cincinnati public library; treasurer, Helen M. Reynolds, Detroit public library.

The general session was held Wednesday, May 15, Carrie E. Scott presiding, with an attendance of more than 900. Esther Johnson of the New York public library read an inspiring paper on Contacts made for the library by the children's librarian. Miss Johnson showed how much contacts greatly extend the usefulness of the library and enhance its prestige. She recounted many incidents of the contacts made by children's librarians in the New York library where such contacts are particularly vivid because of the city's great foreign population.

When the children's librarian has adroitness and social skill she not only makes her room a secure place for the intelligent child but also makes her neighborhood aware of its library. Then the one in charge of the library may look hopefully for more of the vigorous and enlightened alumni of children's rooms that are the happy and original readers of the adult department.

Mary Gould Davis, supervisor of story-telling in the New York public library, read a delightful paper on the Art of story-telling. Miss Davis emphasized the necessity of the story-teller's familiarity with the background of her tale "to make a story live we must have knowledge behind it, knowledge that is assimilated and that has become a part of the consciousness." In response to a special request, Miss Davis charmed her listeners by telling them an old Italian tale that she had recently heard while in Italy. The tale has never been in print.

The culmination of the meeting was the presentation by Carrie E. Scott, chairman of the section, of the John Newberry medal award to Mr Eric P. Kelly for his book, *The trumpeter of Krakow*. The selection evidently had the enthusiastic endorsement of the audience.

Part of the presentation ceremony was the sounding of the Heynal by Arthur Whitcomb, second leader of the U. S. Marine Band on a medieval trumpet, the property of the city of Krakow. Mr Kelly's response to the bestowal of the medal was most happily expressed. (See p. 291.)

The third meeting was a joint one of the Children's Librarians' section and the School section, Miss Scott, presiding, Marjorie Van Deusen, chairman of the School section, being unable to be present. Professor Edwin A. Starbuck, in charge of the Research bureau in Character education of the University of Iowa, gave a scholarly address on "present methods of evaluating children's books." Helen Ferris, associate editor of the *Atlantic Monthly Bookshelf* was thoroly enjoyed by her audience as she told of her experiences as an editor in selecting stories for girls in the early teens, for the *Youths' Companion* and *St. Nicholas Magazine*. Her topic was Reading interests of girls. After the report on Books for the Lincoln library in Mexico City by Annie Spencer Cutter, supervisor of Work with schools in the Cleveland public library, the meeting was adjourned.

MARY FRANCIS COX  
Secretary

#### Prizes for Card Catalogs

The F. A. Stokes Company, Publishers, are offering 50 book prizes for the 50 best card catalogs of home or personal libraries made by boys or girls under sixteen and submitted thru the librarian of the library.

Sheets of instruction are issued as to how the catalog is to be made, and when finished, the catalog is to be submitted on or before October 1 to the Stokes Company.

All card catalogs submitted, whether prize winners or not, will be returned postage free to the libraries from which they come.

### News from the Field East

William Wayne Shirley, Pratt '28, assistant in the Economics division of the New York public library, has been appointed librarian of the University of New Hampshire library.

Miss Pearl M. Day, Pratt '28, succeeds Mr Shirley in the Economics division of the New York public library.

The annual report of the Public library of Bangor, Maine, records: Number of agencies, 60; number of volumes on the shelves, 128,467; number of volumes lent for home use, 293,646; registered borrowers, 15,766, 60 per cent of population; number of staff, 16; receipts, \$62,237; expenses: salaries, \$20,056; books, periodicals and binding, \$27,297; building maintenance, \$8,569, total expenditure \$60,380.

The annual report of the Public library of Providence, Rhode Island, for 1928, states: Population served, 280,600, thru 107 agencies; volumes on shelves, 368,969; number of volumes issued for home use, 1,243,273; circulation per capita, 4.4; pictures, photographs and prints lent for home use, 29,118; circulation of pay duplicate collection, 17,174; number of registered borrowers, 76,929; per cent of registered borrowers of population served, 27.4; number of library service staff, 66; number of employees, 62; janitor service employees, 22; receipts for the year, \$268,334; receipts from invested funds, \$219,814; receipts from city appropriation, \$35,500; library operating expenses, \$265,242.

### Central Atlantic

Miss Annie Mackenzie, Pratt '91, head of the circulation department of the Pratt Institute free library, completes this year, 40 years with the library.

Eleanor M. Witmer, N. Y. P. L. '20, supervisor of libraries in the Denver public schools, has resigned to accept the position of associate-librarian at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Miss Julia Wheelock, Pratt '04, head of the order department of the Pratt Institute free library, sailed on April 3 for a six months' absence to Europe, in recognition of completing 25 years of continuous service with the library.

The annual report of the Public library, New Castle, Pa., 1928, records a gain in circulation for the year of 49%. The total receipts for the year was \$37,413; disbursements, books, periodicals, bindery, \$9,135; salaries, \$11,824, balance, \$8,137. The total circulation was 171,214; books on the shelves, 24,622; registered borrowers, 12,970; reading room attendance, 25,478.

Henry Graham Statham, Illinois '29, has been appointed librarian of the American University, Washington, D. C. He will begin his duties, August 1.

Mr Statham took the first year of his professional course at the New York State library school during its last year before merger with Columbia and he was for two years state inspector of public records, New York State education department.

### Central

The Public library, Princeton, Ill., has received a gift of \$60,000 from the late Hon. Selby Smith, for many years a member of the library board of Princeton.

Loyola University, Chicago, has received a gift of \$300,000 for a library building from Edward Cudahy, in honor of his wife. The building will face the lake and will have a capacity of 250,000 volumes.

Lester M. Minkel, a Lydia Roberts fellow at Columbia University, 1928-29, has been appointed supervisor of departmental libraries at the University of Iowa. He succeeds William H. Carlson, recently resigned. Mr Minkel was formerly librarian at the North Dakota school of forestry.

Edith Jones, for some time librarian of the School of Mines, Rolla, Missouri, has resigned to join the staff of the Library school of the University of Illinois.

John H. Dougherty, librarian of the Teachers College of Durant, Oklahoma, succeeds Miss Jones. Mr Dougherty graduated from Columbia in 1922 and took the library course at the University of Illinois.

Dr Harlow Lindley, former librarian of Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, and who some time ago became librarian of the Hayes Memorial library and museum at Freemont, Ohio, has resigned the latter position to accept an offer to become curator of history for the state of Ohio.

The Herrick library of Wellington, Ohio, will receive a gift of \$70,000 by the will of the late Myron T. Herrick, recently U. S. ambassador to France. The money will be used to build an addition to the present library building for a children's room dedicated to the memory of a grandson of Mr Herrick, and for the upkeep of the library.

Edwin E. Willoughby of the Newberry library, Chicago, has been awarded a fellowship by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He will sail shortly for Europe where he will study the typography of the Jaggard Press in its relationship to the First Folio of Shakespeare. He has made during the past year several important contributions to the literature of the subject.

The annual report of the Public library of Council Bluffs, Iowa, records a circulation for home use of 233,175 books; in the elementary schools, 80,414. Forty-two organizations used the library club rooms with a total of 228 meetings. Aviation books head the list in use, followed by radio books. Considerable increase is noted in the use of Biography. Eva T. Canon heads the staff of 11.

The children's department of the Public library, Ft Wayne, Ind., has been asked to contribute photographs and book lists to the International library congress at Rome in June and to the International conference of the International bureau of education at Geneva in July. Both conferences present an unusually valuable opportunity for showing graphically what American libraries are doing for children.

The annual report of the Carnegie-Stout free public library, Dubuque, Iowa, records a circulation of 340,985v.; per capita circulation, 8; population, 41,000; tax levy, 2½ mills; total number of agencies, 31; books on shelves, 50,781; pamphlets, 4,065; pictures, clippings, etc., 5,819; registered borrowers, 13,590; receipts, \$36,289; expenditures: books, \$7,907; salaries, \$10,695; janitor service, \$2,574; total, \$29,930; maintenance expenditure per capita, 73 cents.

The annual report of the Public library of Waterloo, Iowa, is in pocket size which will doubtless add to its wider consideration. The main points are: Circulation, 314,313 v., of which 64,132 were from the schools; volumes in the library, 46,168; readers' cards issued, 5,825; cards in force, 15,258; receipts, \$38,347; expenditures — books, periodicals and binding, \$10,837; salaries, \$19,504; janitor service, \$2,850; library service staff, headed by Miss Callie Wieder, 17.

On April 12, the Parcher Memorial wing recently added to the Public library of Wausau, Wisconsin, at the cost of \$80,000, was dedicated. The occasion was made a memorable one by the ceremonies attending the dedication, particularly the historic review of the development of library service in Wausau and Wisconsin.

The Public library building at Wausau was a Carnegie gift many years ago which had outgrown its dimensions. The Parcher family have been connected

with the town of Wausau since its founding, and this building embodies the history of their citizenship.

The annual report of The John Crerar library, Chicago, for 1928 shows:

Books added to the library during the year, 10,800v.; books on the shelves, 550,000; maps and charts, 17,083; pamphlets, 360,000. The library received 4,190 current periodicals and 17,300 other serials. Receipts during the year, \$518,438; disbursements, \$469,877; operating income, \$302,666; administration: salaries, \$104,037; supplies, \$2,693; printing, \$9,382; books, \$22,016; periodicals, \$16,949; binding, \$13,713; maintenance and operation, \$60,926; building and grounds, \$105,798.

Number of visitors recorded, 138,788, a daily average of 449; total calls for books, 219,492, a daily average of 710.

The library staff responded to a total of 5306 inquiries by telephone. The librarian personally gave attention to 324 inquiries of a relatively more important kind, or touching matters within his special fields.

Interlibrary loans were recorded to 231 institutions, a total of 1637 volumes, an increase of 432 as compared with last year. Local loans were extended to 377 individuals, institutions and business houses, involving a total of 1134 volumes.

The most immediately noticeable administrative feature of the reference service is that during the year the average time required to fill calls was 7.16 minutes. The figure for 1927 was 8.97 and in 1926, 11.8 minutes. This shows a gain of about two minutes each year—a saving of about eight thousand hours to the library's patrons.

The chief cataloger, Miss Gertrude Forstall, was granted a six months' leave of absence, due to her long and distinguished service in the library. Her resignation was accepted with regret.

On November 10, the library celebrated the completion of 25 years' service of the head janitor, William Jones. The occasion was properly recognized by the directors and the staff.

The report contains a portrait of the late assistant-librarian, Edward D. Tweedell, who passed away in Florida on March 30, 1928. There is also a short sketch of his life and work.

The library suffered the loss by death of Mr Marvin Hughitt, senior member of the Board of directors, on January 6, 1928. The qualities which gave Mr Hughitt a nation-wide circle of friends and admirers won the respect and friendship of his library associates.

#### South

Alleghany County, Maryland, has been granted an appropriation of \$11,000 by the commissioners to establish the Alleghany County library. The Cumberland public library will be used as a county library after additions have been made, and there is a plan to establish branches in various parts of Alleghany County.

Two important library laws are those passed by the Tennessee legislature in its recent session. The first is the County library law (S. No. 535). The law is permissive thruout and is as expansive as the community may desire. The authority for establishment, maintenance and administration is all provided for with the widest possible latitude. The second is a Municipal library law (S. No. 658). The law empowers municipalities to provide public library facilities by establishment or contract with another library for library service. Here again the entanglement of provisions is reduced to a minimum. Both acts took effect upon their passage.

The annual report of the Public library, Richmond, Virginia, for 1928, reports a six per cent increase of appropriation, a 13 per cent increase in the

library content, ten per cent advance in home circulation, double the amount of reading and reference use in the library and a decrease of one per cent in the cost of operation. Books on the shelves, 67,137; active enrollment of library borrowers, 29,604; circulation, 437,786 v.

An extension of library service thru some of the colored schools was undertaken last year. Gifts of considerable value, books, pamphlets, pictures and prints were received; 8,544 v. were added to the library.

Expenditures — salaries, \$31,715; books, periodicals and binding, \$18,877; total expenditure, \$56,565.

The report of the Public library, Savannah, Georgia, displays charts giving a general idea of the library's service month by month, in addition to the annual statistics. A glance at the first chart shows circulation has increased 16,230v. over last year. Over 14,000 questions came in the main library during the year from commercial firms, club women, students, artists and others.

Population served, 54,053 (white only); number of agencies, 10; number of volumes in the library, 43,996; books lent for home use, 248,099; number of pamphlets, pictures, photographs, and periodicals, 9,245; circulation per capita, 4.59; registered borrowers, 16,778; per cent of registered borrowers of population served, 31; receipts, \$35,960; expenditures—books, periodicals, binding, \$8,195; salaries, \$24,084.

The annual report of the library of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, which is made to the President and the Governing Board, is an interesting document not alone for the story of the progress of the library of the University of North Carolina, but for the information concerning library matters which is given in a much condensed form and can but have a good effect on the attitude of those to whom it is addressed toward the library and its work.

Among the special points noted, is a plan for a library school to serve the libraries in the South. Distinctive gifts and purchases have added to the resources of the library. The North Carolina collection now contains about 37,000 volumes. Special departments relating to the library and its work have been developed. The library statistics show number of volumes received for the year, 16,895; books in the library, 198,472; circulation for the year, 285,582v.; letters to women's clubs and schools, 25,397; volumes borrowed, 368; volumes loaned, 137; new catalog cards added, 25,268; appropriation, \$100,005.

A long list of donors to the library closes the report.

#### West

The Oklahoma legislature has passed a bill permitting counties that desire to do so, to levy a tax of one-half of one mill, to maintain a county circulating library.

The annual report of the Public library of Omaha, Nebraska, for 1928, shows a year of activity thru 69 agencies. Number of volumes, 187,874; pamphlets, pictures, photographs and prints, 76,244; number of volumes lent for home use, 814,319, 76 per cent fiction; 3.7 circulation per capita; registered borrowers, 46,002; per cent of registered borrowers of population served, 21; receipts, \$107,196; maintenance expenditure per capita, 49 cents; salaries, \$53,852; books and periodicals, \$23,784; binding, \$6,674; library operating expenses, \$93,376; building operating expense, \$13,819.

The annual report of the Public library, Denver, Colorado, records that the circulation of its books outstrips the growth of the city. Increase of population was three per cent, while the increase in circulation was 11 per cent. Circulation for the year, 1,777,860; registered borrowers, 79,498, or about 27 per cent of the population. Libraries in the high and platoon schools are not represented in the circulation.

The State board of examiners for engineers and land surveyors gave the library last year, \$1000 for the purchase of technical books, which the library supplemented by \$3500. This technical collection numbers over 18,000 books, and a very intensive use is made of them.

The circulation in Woodbury branch passed the 100,000 mark. Broadway branch circulated 88,766, the Warren branch, 87,904, and the Decker branch, 84,591 volumes. A number of new stations were added in satisfactory quarters. The Board of Education appropriated \$2,000 to replenish the classroom collections circulated by the Public library.

May Wood Wiggington succeeded Rena Reese as director of the training class. Ten young women are in class for 1928-29. A Readers' Advisor service was provided the first of last year and Mary Weaver was placed in charge.

Books on the shelves number 317,007; books circulated thru 100 agencies, 6.07 per capita. The library service engages 111 persons out of a total of 166. The library's income, \$253,348; operating expenses, \$210,086; maintenance, \$43,261.

#### Pacific Coast

A measure giving the governor of Nevada authority to appoint the state librarian has been passed in Nevada. V. M. Henderson was appointed to the office.

The governor of Washington, during the session just closed, recommended the abolishment of the state traveling library work, but the legislature refused to agree. The governor retaliated by vetoing that part of the budget providing the funds for the state traveling library work.

Miss Mary Hughes, head of the children's department of the Public library of Tacoma, Washington, was married in December to J. Allen Morehouse of Salt Lake City, Utah. Mrs Morehouse is continuing in her position at Tacoma.

#### Canada

The Ontario legislation has passed an amendment to the Public Libraries Act

for Toronto which while retaining the minimum tax of 50 cents per capita of population for the support of the public libraries, will increase the amount which the City Council may by a majority vote give to the library to the limit of \$1.

Violet MacEwen, graduate of McGill University, has been appointed to take charge of the Children's library at the Fraser Institute, Montreal. The funds to carry on the work are supplied by the efforts of the Education committee of the Montreal Local Council of Women, and the work will be carried on for one year as a demonstration library.

Miss MacEwen was for three years Boys and Girls librarian at the Westmount public library, and later was appointed to the staff of the Boys' and Girls department of the Toronto public library, where she has served in the various branches for the past three years.

#### Foreign

Regret is widespread over the destruction by fire of the Municipal library of Dunkirk, France, April 24. The library possessed a large collection of manuscripts of inestimable value, in addition to nearly 100,000 volumes.

The Wolfsohn Memorial library of the Hebrew University in Palestine was opened, April 29.

It has taken two and one-half years for the erection of the library building, and the work provided a living in the meantime for 300 families.

The site of the library building is on Mount Scopus. Jerusalem stretches to the west, and from the south of the building lie the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley. The building is a memorial to David Wolfsohn. Ground for the library was broken early in 1926.

**For sale—*Historian's History of the World*. (Outlook \$75 Edition) Attractive buckram binding; 25 v. Partly uncut; good as new. \$25. C. R. Shaver, 533 68th Ave., West Allis, Wis.**